

Hafa Adai!

CHCC assures it won't mix vaccines. **PAGE 5**
5 non-profit groups get \$4,100 each in GBM donations. **PAGE 6**

75¢

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Over 200 IPI workers will become illegal immigrants

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

In four days, over 200 Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC contract workers will officially become illegal immigrants on U.S. soil because their vi-

IPI won't complete IPR by Feb. 28 deadline

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has a Feb. 28, 2021, deadline to finish building the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan but, as that

sas are set to expire by the end of this month.

According to an internal IPI source, IPI has over 200 contract workers on temporary work visas that will expire on

Jan. 30. The source said IPI has not made any arrangements. **See ILLEGAL on Page 4**

» **CCC alarmed by changes in Imperial Pacific Resort completion dates**

date draws closer, it is now clear that IPI won't be able to meet that deadline—a situation that Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director An-

See **DEADLINE** on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Jan 26, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,554	12	7,566
Recovered	7,319	16	7,335
Active	90	12	102
Deaths	129	0	129
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	112,751		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	132	0	132
Traced via Travel Screening	106	0	106
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	160		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Maria's Café opens today across the Kentucky Fried Chicken branch in Chalan Kanoa.

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NATION

Coronavirus deaths and cases per day in the U.S. dropped markedly over the past couple of weeks.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

Pompeii's museum is reborn, showing off exquisite finds from the ancient Roman city.

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Local

CPA approves \$1M Tinian Marina upgrading project

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has approved the over \$1-million Tinian Harbor Seaport Marina Improvement project to enhance the Tinian Marina.

During a CPA board meeting yesterday, the board approved the supplemental request of the CPA financial affairs committee for \$1,008,460 and has approved the drawdown of funds to begin the Tinian Marina upgrade.

CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said she is excited for the project, hoping it will create opportunities for commercial development in that area. "I also hope that the improvements and the upgrades will better service the community and those engaging in commercial activities and become another site that our tourists can enjoy as well," she said.

King-Hinds said the project includes paving the parking area, the construction of a restroom, and other infrastructure improvements that will enhance the Tinian Marina.

King-Hinds said the funding is drawn down from the Seaport portion of the Divert Lease proceeds.

In addition, the CPA financial affairs committee approved many other supplemental budget requests, including the Tinian airport parking lot expansion, and other Super Typhoon Yutu-related improvements.

"We're beginning to draw down Yutu insurance proceeds as well as [Federal Emergency Management Agency] covered expenses but another big thing for us today is the approval of Tinian airport expansion program supplemental budget drawdown. For that we're looking at expanding the airport there, consistent with the layout for the new Tinian International Airport masterplan on Tinian and we're tapping into the Divert Lease proceeds to fund that specific parking lot expansion," King-Hinds said.

(Kimberly A. Bautista)

Tenorio: Growing a nonprofit organization 'can be lonely'

Speaking at the open house of the Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations last Thursday, MANGO chair Maisie B. Tenorio said that nourishing a newly established nonprofit organization can be lonely and scary, especially when there is no one else to show you the ropes of how to grow a non-profit.

Which is why Tenorio is upbeat about the role that MANGO will play in the community of nonprofit organizations in the CNMI as a mentor for those who are looking into being a nonprofit organization.

"As a nonprofit leader myself, I remember always wishing that we had some mentoring or some organization that can help guide us, and so it is so amazing to have MANGO be able to serve us that for our community and our nonprofits," said Tenorio.

Tenorio is no stranger to nonprofit work. Aside from being the MANGO board chair, she also heads the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence.

"We have learned over the past five years how important and impactful nonprofits can be, how life-saving and life-giving they can be. Nonprofits have seen us through Typhoon Soudelor, Super Typhoon Yutu, and currently with the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonprofits are serving our com-

munity in a way that is so different from any other agency serving our community today," said Tenorio.

She said nonprofits serve the "community with love, compassion, holistically, and with the human approach." "Nonprofits are so critical to the growth of our community and our community. Thank you so much for believing in me, and thank you for being here to learn more about the program," she said.

Tenorio thanked people who are working for nonprofit organizations, or serve on the board of a nonprofit organization, and hopes that they will consider a membership with MANGO.

She also thanked those who are an ally, or supporter, of a nonprofit organization, and hopes that they will continue their support for MANGO and all other nonprofit organizations in the CNMI.

Also speaking at the MANGO open house was MANGO vice chairwoman Felicidad T. Oguimoro, who stated that MANGO will provide leadership and technical assistance for nonprofit organizations to be successful.

MANGO currently has 21 nonprofit organizations that are registered with it.

"We are still encouraging others to please join us. I am excited about what MANGO is going to do now," said Oguimoro. *(Justine Nauta)*

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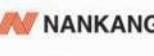


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Advancing LGBTQ+ equality on agenda of House health panel

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REPORTER

The House of the Representatives' Committee on Health and Welfare chaired by Rep. Christina Sablan (D-Saipan) is now organized and will hold its first public meeting this Friday.

Among the committee's legislative agenda for 2021 is advancing LGBTQ+ equality and wellbeing in the CNMI. LGBTQ+ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or sometimes questioning), and others. The plus represents other sexual identities.

Sablan said Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan) is the committee's vice chairwoman, and members are Reps. Sheila Bautista (D-Saipan), Donald Man-

glona (Ind-Rota), and Blas Jonathan Tenorio Attao (R-Saipan).

In her memorandum Monday to House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Sablan said the purpose of this Friday's meeting to be held at the House chamber at 9am is to discuss the committee's priorities for calendar year 2021.

Other issues listed in the legislative agenda are monitoring the Commonwealth's COVID-19 response, expanding access to health care in the Marianas, reforming the medical referral program, and raising revenue for health care system. Sablan said Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muñoz and her team have been invited to testify.

'Despite challenges, NMTI has come a long way'

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Despite its many challenges and the long road still ahead of it, the Northern Marianas Trades Institute has come a long way since its early days, according to Dante Yumul, NMTI's Instruction director.

In 2020 itself, Yumul stated that NMTI hasn't "really had a school year" when the institute closed its doors last March 2020 due to the pandemic.

"We picked up again to finish up our ongoing classes. So far, the students that are showing up and participating is good. This is pretty much the second week we're going to get into our classes [and] so far it's looking good, as far as attendance [is concerned]," he said.

Yumul has been with NMTI

since the beginning from when it was founded as a non-profit institution in 2008 by the late businessman Anthony Pellegrino. Yumul went from being on the board to becoming its director of Instruction.

NMTI is using this time to make sure that the classes that were abruptly stopped last year continue, so that the students can finish their learning modules and finish the courses they signed up for.

According to NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres, the institute received "quite a number" of new students who have registered but can't start classes until the NMTI board of trustees gives them the green light to do so.

Not only does the institute have to wait for the board of trustees' approval, but

McPhetres also said they can't start new classes until they have the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker funding.

McPhetres said that NMTI has the lowest cost per student nationwide, but still the institute has been stretching every penny it receives from donations and funds that were carried over from previous school years.

Also, despite constant pleas to the executive and legislative branches, she said the institute has not received the funding it "desperately needs." McPhetres underscored the need to adequately fund NMTI, saying the investment is worth it because the students would contribute greatly to the local workforce.

NMTI director for Continuing Education and Workforce Development Ross Mangloña

said that the students who do graduate from the institute will help local employers save money by allowing them to hire locally. "[This is a] low cost to you because we're trying to minimize the expenses on the [part of] businesses. That's what we're trying to get in the end—students that are knowledgeable and skillful," said Mangloña.

McPhetres reiterated that NMTI needs to have the appropriate funding because the institute requires pricey equipment and gear.

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CNMI COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATE:



We are here

NO VACCINE

LIMITED SUPPLY

PHASE 1

ADDITIONAL SUPPLY

PHASE 2

BROAD SUPPLY

PHASE 3



We are able to vaccinate 400 people for dose 1 and dose 2 each day that vaccinations are open.

400

PHASE 1a

- Healthcare workers, high-risk first responders, homebound/bedbound patients, & Man Amko' (≥65 years)

PHASE 1b EXPANDED TO INCLUDE

- Persons 55 years of age and older
- Workers part of CNMI infrastructure (listed on CISA Sector Graphic) across public and private sectors: Media & Telecommunications, Food & Agriculture, Transportation Systems, Energy and Utilities, Financial Services, Waste & Water Systems, Education (PSS, NMC, Private Schools, Daycares); Faith-Based Leaders, Covid-19 Contractors employed by the CNMI Governor's Task Force, and CNMI (State/Local) Government Employees (All agencies)

How to register & get updates

- Visit our website www.vaccinatecnmi.com
- Call the Vaccinate CNMI Call Center (670) 682-SHOT (7468)



CNMI COVID-19 VACCINATION SCHEDULE

— 01/25/21 - 01/31/21 —

SAIPAN

Monday, 1/25 TIME: 8am to 3pm

- Dose 1: 358 doses available for Phase 1a & 1b
- Dose 2: 42 doses for 01/04/2021

Tuesday, 1/26 TIME: 8am to 3pm

- Dose 1: 400 doses available for Phase 1a & 1b

Wednesday, 1/27 TIME: 8am to 3pm

- Dose 1: 400 doses available for Phase 1a & 1b

Thursday, 1/28 TIME: 8am to 3pm

- Dose 1: 400 doses available for Phase 1a & 1b

Friday, 1/29 TIME: 8am to 3pm

- Dose 1: 400 doses available for Phase 1a & 1b

Saturday, 1/30 TIME: 8am to 3pm

- Dose 1: 400 doses available for Phase 1a & 1b

Phase 1b dose 1 vaccination depends upon verification of employment status by CHCC and daily capacity.

Please bring your valid Government Issued ID and Employee ID to your appointment date.

LOCATION: CHCC - MCATS tents located across from the Emergency Room.

PARKING: Parking lot is located across the CHCC campus on Navy Hill Road.

TINIAN

Residents on Tinian from Phase 1a were vaccinated on January 17, 2021 with dose 1 of 2. A new vaccination schedule for Tinian is coming soon.



ROTA

Residents on Rota from Phase 1a were vaccinated on January 24, 2021 with dose 1 of 2. A new vaccination schedule for Rota is coming soon.



What to Bring

1. **Vaccination ID** (Located in confirmation email)
2. **Government Issued ID** (e.g., driver's license or passport)
3. **Employee ID** or latest paystub (Phase 1b only)
4. **Insurance Card** (If applicable)
5. **DOSE 2 recipients** must also bring their **Vaccination Record Card** (please make your appointment date even if you misplace your card)

Court imposes \$50K bail on alleged drug offender

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

TRUMP

From Page 1

president and shunning calls to convict him over the deadly siege at the U.S. Capitol.

It's an early sign of Trump's enduring sway over the party.

The nine House prosecutors carried the sole impeachment charge of "incitement of insurrection" across the Capitol, making a solemn and ceremonial march to the Senate along the same halls the rioters ransacked just weeks ago. But Republican denunciations of Trump have cooled since the Jan. 6 riot. Instead Republicans are presenting a tangle of legal arguments against the legitimacy of the trial and questioning whether Trump's repeated demands to overturn Joe Biden's election really amounted to incitement.

What seemed for some Democrats like an open-and-shut case that played out for the world on live television, as Trump encouraged a rally

The Superior Court has imposed a \$50,000 cash bail on a man who has a number of pending drug cases and

mob to "fight like hell" for his presidency, is running into a Republican Party that feels very differently. Not only are there legal concerns, but senators are wary of crossing the former president and his legions of followers—who are their voters. Security remains tight at the Capitol.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, asked if Congress starts holding impeachment trials of former officials, what's next: "Could we go back and try President Obama?"

Besides, he suggested, Trump has already been held to account. "One way in our system you get punished is losing an election."

Arguments in the Senate trial will begin the week of Feb. 8, and the case against Trump, the first former president to face impeachment trial, will test a political party still sorting itself out for the post-Trump era. Republican senators are balancing the demands of deep-pocketed donors who are distancing themselves from Trump and voters who demand

was arrested for another drug-related offense.

At a preliminary hearing, Superior

loyalty to him. One Republican, Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, announced Monday he would not seek reelection in 2022, citing the polarized political atmosphere.

For Democrats the tone, tenor and length of the upcoming trial, so early in Biden's presidency, poses its own challenge, forcing them to strike a balance between their vow to hold Trump accountable and their eagerness to deliver on the new administration's priorities following their sweep of control of the House, Senate and White House.

Biden himself told CNN late Monday that the impeachment trial "has to happen." While acknowledging the effect it could have on his agenda, he said there would be "a worse effect if it didn't happen."

Biden said he didn't think enough Republican senators would vote for impeachment to convict, though he also said the outcome might well have been different if Trump had six months left in his term.

request for child tax income credits.

He said they will submit a request of taxpayers and their other information and then the Internal Revenue Services will transfer those funds to Finance.

"On receipt of the funds, we will disperse those funds right away," Atalig said.

Finance Division of Revenue and Taxation is expected to process nearly 31,000 second stimulus payments.

For those taxpayers who do not opt-in for direct deposit, DRT is expected to mail the paper checks by next Friday.

According to Finance's website, which can be found at <https://finance.gov.mp>, the CNMI stimulus portal is open until March 20, 2021. The portal allows an eligible person to register to receive his/her federal stimulus payment directly in his/her bank account.

Eligibility and payment amount will be determined based on the 2019 tax returns.

"With the repatriation, I think that's one of the important parts too. That's the reason why I didn't want to go to the following week. The repatriation of the workers with visas expiring Jan. 30 is a concern and an issue. I believe some of [them] are also separate plaintiffs in another pending civil matter," Mangloña said.

So far, IPI has yet to report if they have satisfied the sanctions imposed by the court to lift the current stop-work order. That means paying the last five employee payrolls and restoring power and water to employee housing.

Numerous IPI employees report that power and water have not been restored and that IPI allows the use of generators for a couple of hours a day.

As for payroll, IPI employees told *Saipan Tribune* that some of their checks bounced.

Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio imposed a \$50,000 cash bail on Derek Camacho Reyes, 39.

Kim-Tenorio remanded Reyes back to the custody of the Department of Corrections immediately after his preliminary hearing.

After police seized drugs and drug paraphernalia from his vehicle, Reyes admitted that he is an addict who smokes "ice" or methamphetamine.

Reyes still has pending drug cases from 2017 and 2018, but recently graduated from the Drug Court Program.

According to court documents, on

Jan. 12, the Drug Enforcement Task Force seized 0.9 gram of white crystalline substance that tested positive for methamphetamine, one glass pipe containing ice, and 16 grams of marijuana from Reyes' Jeep Wrangler.

In a freely given statement to police, Reyes stated that he had smoked ice with Juan Sablan Ada Jr., another alleged drug offender, before being approached by DETF officers outside Toha Supermarket in San Antonio.

At the time, Ada was in Reyes' parked Jeep Wrangler while Reyes was in the supermarket.

Reyes was charged with illegal possession of a controlled substance while Ada was separately charged in connection with the case.

Power service interruption on Friday

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Friday, Jan. 29, 2021, from 9am to 1pm, for the area of Espana Street in Gualo Rai. No traffic light, water well, or wastewater lift station will be affected.

DEADLINE

From Page 1

drew Yeom finds "alarming."

After listening to IPI chief engineer Eric Poon's presentation about the IPR's construction progress report during the CCC board meeting last Wednesday, Yeom said it's "quite alarming and very concerning" that the "construction milestones schedule" to complete the construction of the Imperial Pacific Resort has been changed.

IPI, through Poon, came up with the revised construction timeline and Yeom acknowledged that Poon is obviously just trying to be realistic but he pointed out that the casino license agreement sets the timelines for IPI to finish the project. Yeom said this is going to be a very serious breach of contract.

"You only have about a month to go. So please do something about it," Yeom told Poon.

The executive director said that IPI has only until Feb. 28, 2021, to finish building IPR but now the new target completion dates are beyond what is allowed in the casino license agreement.

"If there are no amendments [to the CLA], that is obviously going to be a serious breach of contract," said Yeom. He advised Poon or any other IPI official to talk to the necessary body about this matter at this point—not with the Commonwealth Lottery Commission, unless Gov. Ralph DLG Torres decides to appoint a Lottery commissioner to talk about this matter.

Yeom said this is something Poon or IPI need to talk and resolve, unless the casino license agreement is amended once more.

Poon said IPI is aware of that.

CCC board chair Edward C. Deleon Guerrero said at the same meeting Wednesday that if IPI is thinking of appointing a new chief executive officer, this completion schedule is very much a high priority.

Deleon Guerrero said he believes that Poon has already indicated that they could not be able to finish by next month.

He said there must be a formal request by IPI to the Office of the Governor for the deadline extension, and let the CCC know that they are requesting for an extension.

Deleon Guerrero said IPI must support the detailed plan for the December 2022 final completion target with a financial ability to carry out that plan.

"If you don't do that at the end of February, CCC will again will be forced to file an enforcement action for failure to comply with the license agreement," he said.

The chairman said this is an adequate advance notice, which IPI should have known anyway that they don't need a reminder.

"So make sure that somebody in IPI with sufficient authority look at this and take some actions," Deleon Guerrero told Poon.

So far, Poon said, only the Phase 1—construction of resort hotel—is completed.

Poon said construction of Phase 2—tower hotel levels 3 to 13—is still in progress and that the target completion is Dec. 31, 2021.

Poon said Phase 3—Level 2 VIP Gaming and Level 14 Sky Level—is in progress and that the targeted completion date is April 30, 2022.

He said Phase 4—Beach Club, the target start of construction is Feb. 1, 2022, with Dec. 31, 2022 is the target completion date.

Poon said the target completion dates also depend on the manpower condition, since the forecasted schedule requires an estimated 2,000 workers.

Last June, Poon said the forecast to complete Phase 2 (tower hotel) was June 30, 2020; Phase 3 (Level 2 VIP Gaming and Level 14 Sky Level) was September 2020; and for Phase 4 (Beach Club) was December 2020.

At Wednesday's meeting, Poon said as of Jan. 19, 2021, on the construction side, there are 14 management staff and a total of 186 workers, including 15 from local manpower AM Group.

He said there are 171 H2B foreign workers: 34 Taiwanese, three Thais, 106 Mongolians, and 28 Turkish.

STIMULUS

From Page 1

through direct bank deposits.

Jenny, a store cashier, said she was so happy when she checked her bank balance yesterday morning and found out that the \$600 had already been credited to her account. She said she registered with Finance's portal only last Saturday.

She said her other co-workers also received their payments yesterday.

"This money is a big help for me and my family," the cashier said.

Ben, an accountant, said he registered in the portal yesterday but found out that the money was already in his bank account on Monday. Ben said he only learned yesterday about Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig's statement that if taxpayers have already registered for direct deposit on the first stimulus checks, they do not need to register again.

Atalig said in a press statement

Sunday that this web portal is for those that got a paper check last time and would like to opt-in for direct deposit for this second stimulus and future stimulus payments.

Earlier on Wednesday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres announced that the CNMI 2020 Recovery Rebate Credit and Second Economic Impact Payments Plan for \$41.3 million has been approved by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

At a radio news briefing last Friday, Atalig said their approved implementation plan included their estimate of how much they need to receive in order to pay all taxpayers.

Atalig said they got an immediate transfer of 90% of that number.

"And so if I requested a \$1,000, they gave me \$900 and the 10% will be requested as we get more documents and information on additional taxpayers that need to be paid out," he said.

The secretary said they will then submit that list similar to their process

to do so.

"A great number of these workers will lose their status and need to be repatriated. One of the issues we have to work with the Department of Labor is if we have limited cash, how do we best address the situation? How do we prioritize between repatriation, wages, and getting the power back? I think that's more of a conversation I should have with the attorneys of the U.S. Department of Labor," he said.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Mangloña said the repatriation of the workers is a concern and an issue on its own.

The court scheduled the next hearing between USDOL and IPI this Thursday to address the issue of repatriation, sanctions, and whether or not the court's stop-work order should be lifted or extended.

ILLEGAL

From Page 1

ments for repatriation and have not paid them severance and back wages that these workers could use to pay for their own flights back home.

"IPI has over 200 workers who will soon have illegal immigration status. They are fearful [that they will be] picked up. The company needs to pay them severance and send them home," the source said.

The U.S District Court for the NMI is set to hear the matter this Thursday.

During a hearing at the U.S District Court for the NMI last Thursday, former IPI counsel Michael Dotts said that IPI has many workers whose visas are expiring on Jan. 30 and need to be repatriated, but IPI does not have the resources

CHCC assures it won't mix vaccines

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

With more and more people being vaccinated in the CNMI, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. assures that anyone in the CNMI will have the same type of vaccine on their first and second dose.

CHCC took to Facebook to announce on its page that they will follow the manufacturer's recommendations of both vaccines and efficacy.

"Every day we hear of other jurisdictions mixing and matching Pfizer and Moderna doses because the supply of each is limited. Since the beginning, both manufacturers and the FDA have advised to not mix and match vaccine options," said the CHCC statement.

In a separate interview two weeks ago with CHCC chief operating officer Subroto Banerji, he said that if they receive a box of 1,000 doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, CHCC will automatically set

aside the number they will need for the second dose. Since the Pfizer vaccine is a two-dose vaccine, if CHCC gets 1,000 doses, they would have to set aside 500 to administer for the second dose.

Banerji stated that they've been hearing that other jurisdictions have been vaccinating their population with whatever vaccine they have on hand for their first dose, but there are instances where they don't give the same vaccine for their second dose as they did on the first dose.

"We're hearing folks are combining Pfizer and Moderna at the same time, and so we don't want to do that," said Banerji, adding that the solution to ensure that CHCC has the same vaccine for both doses is to have bulk shipment.

"We can start getting our shipments in bulk because that will allow us to plan much more into the future and be able to tell the community, 'This is what we're going to be able to do in January, Febru-

ary, March, and April. . . That's where we're aiming to get to so that the community can tell where they can fit into the different phases," said Banerji.

According to CHCC, the vaccines are proven 95% effective in clinical trials when the same vaccine is administered and following the recommended 21 days (Pfizer) and 28 days (Moderna) apart between doses.

"The efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine when extended past the manufacturer's recommended second dose date has not been established. At this time the CHCC will continue to follow the manufacturer's recommended dose schedule," said CHCC.

CHCC also announced that Phase 1B eligibility for Saipan only has been expanded to include persons 55 years old or older, and CNMI infrastructure workers across public and private sectors.

For persons 55 years or older, use code OVER55 to register. For CNMI infrastructure workers, use code CISA1B to register.

Scheduled water service interruptions

There will be a scheduled water service interruption for the areas of San Vicente, Papago (along Isa Drive), Laulau, Tuturam, Upper Dandan Homestead, Obyan, and Naftan on Friday, Jan. 29, 2021, from 8am to 4pm. This will allow the Com-

monwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor, GPPC, Inc., for the San Vicente Water Tank Replacement Project to connect the 6-inch PVC pipes to the existing transmission lines to allow temporary water service during the replacement of the

existing tank.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor CUC's Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES (RAES) CUC-RAES-21-008

CONSULTANT FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE AND OTHER UTILITY PLANNING & OTHER SERVICES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for a Consultant (Project Engineer) from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for Professional Services for the development of studies and the ultimate expansion of Power Plant #1 and Design, Build and Construction of a New Power Plant in Lower Base on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Proposers for this RAES must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Scope of Work (SOW) of the RAES may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one RAES package set.

One (1) Non-Priced Proposal & One (1) Priced Proposal marked "CUC-RAES-21-008, CONSULTANT FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE AND OTHER UTILITY PLANNING & OTHER SERVICES" must be submitted via email to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior, Purchasing Technician via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 11, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAES does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAES and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

The selection of an A&E firm for the award of a contract will be by a committee appointed by the CUC Executive Director for this purpose, which will evaluate responses to this solicitation. Selection shall be made in accordance with CUC Procurement Regulations §50-50-305 regarding Architectural and Engineering Services. Discussions shall be conducted with at least 3 of the responding firms (or less if fewer than five firms respond) regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made therefrom. Based on the scoring criteria outlined herein, only the three most highly qualified firms shall be invited to discuss further the firm's qualifications and project approach outlined in the scope of work.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project will be entertained only for pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 22, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior—via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-21-015

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE WATER & WASTEWATER CERTIFIED OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAM

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for Professional Services for the Water & Wastewater Certified Operator Training Program for the islands Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is funded by the US Department of Interior-Office of Insular Affairs.

Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-21-015, Professional Services for the Water & Wastewater Certified Operator Training Program" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 19, 2021**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Proposal shall be submitted on the provided Proposal Forms. Proposals will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal under the contract. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Request for Proposals should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the Proposer, awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposals does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 29, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Vivian Santos, Human Resources Manager via email Vivian.santos@cucgov.org; Francisco Matsunaga, HR Generalist, via email francisco.matsunaga@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Support Technician via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CUC-RAES-21-013

A&E Design Services for the Lower Miha Sewerline Replacement (S19-068)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the Lower Miha Homestead Sewerline Replacement in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAES package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAES-21-013, A&E Design Services for Lower Miha Sewerline Replacement", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 12, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAES does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAES and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 22, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Dennis Formalejo, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Pastor Wayne Guillespie of Salvation Army Saipan Corps, leftmost, Jay Santos of Make-a-Wish Guam & CNMI, fifth from left, and John Hirsh of American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, sixth from left, pose with some of the donors at the check presentation for the Guam Business Magazine Executive of the Year New Year New Hope Initiative held at the Aqua Resort Club in Saipan yesterday, Jan. 26. The three non-profits each received \$4,100.

IVA MAURIN

5 non-profit groups get \$4,100 each in GBM donations

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year New Year New Hope Initiative donated \$4,100 each to five non-profit organizations in the Marianas, three of which are based in the CNMI.

“These leaders and organizations have made this unique initiative possible by their swift response. The magazine was unable to host the gala this year, but through their support, the program can still make a positive contribution in 2021,” Maratita added.

of the Year), and TanHoldings’ David Sablan (2005 Executive of the Year) and Jerry Tan (2009 Executive of the Year) were present at the event.

Present yesterday to receive the checks at the Aqua Resort Club are the three Saipan-based non-profits: Salvation Army-Saipan Corps, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, and Make-a-Wish Guam & CNMI. The Guam-based recipients are Salvation Army-Guam Corps and the Guam Memorial Hospital Volunteers Association.

“I know that a lot of people worked hard under extremely challenging conditions, economic conditions, to put these donations together, so to everyone who worked so hard to contribute and donate, thank you very much,” said Salvation Army pastor Wayne Guillespie.

John Hirsh, executive director of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, said the organization has been very busy reaching out to the public on COVID-19 safety, among others.

“I know that a lot of people worked hard under extremely challenging conditions, economic conditions, to put these donations together, so to everyone who worked so hard to contribute and donate, thank you very much,” said Salvation Army pastor Wayne Guillespie.

Jay Santos of Make-a-Wish highlighted their mission to grant the wishes of children who have critical illnesses and whose lives are a challenge.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
670organics

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. 670organics is proposing to renovate and occupy a portion of the 1st & 2nd floor of an existing 2-storey building structure measuring 23' (L) x 69' (W) x 11' (H) for its Cannabis Farm Use. This use is classified as “Cannabis Farm” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. TR. 21732-18 in the village of San Vicente. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **February 3, 2021**
Time: **5:00 pm**
Place: **Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, February 03, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmzoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Marianas Hemp Farms

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Marianas Hemp Farms is proposing to utilize 2 (Two) - 20 (L) x 40 (W) Cargo Containers to construct a 1-storey building structure measuring 43'7" (L) x 208'10" (W) for its Cannabis Farm Use. This use is classified as “Cannabis Farm” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 103 D 06 in the village of Gualo Rai. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **February 3, 2021**
Time: **5:00 pm**
Place: **Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, February 03, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmzoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
P&A Corporation dba Horseback Riding

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. P&A Corp. is proposing to utilize a vacant lot measuring 100' (L) x 293'9" (W) for horseback riding. This use is classified as “Outdoor Amusement” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. E.A 116-3-4 in village of Afetna. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **February 3, 2021**
Time: **5:00 pm**
Place: **Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, February 03, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmzoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Saipan Cares for Animals, CNMI

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Cares for Animals, CNMI is proposing to utilize an existing 1-storey building structure measuring 35'1" (L) x 42 (W) x 9'11" (H) for its Veterinary Clinic or Hospital Use and to also provide 29 (Twenty-Nine) Dog Kennels on the property. This use is classified as “Veterinary Clinic or Hospital” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 038 I 54 in the village of As Gonno. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **February 3, 2021**
Time: **5:00 pm**
Place: **Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, February 03, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmzoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Vertical Aviation, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Vertical Aviation, LLC is proposing to construct an extension measuring 75' (L) x 57' (W) x 22' (H) to an existing warehouse, and to also construct an additional warehouse measuring 95' (L) x 75' (W) x 22' (H) for its Heliport or Helipad Use. This use is classified as “Helipad or Heliport” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 117 D 11 & 117 D 13 in the village of Puerto Rico. This area is zoned as Industrial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **February 3, 2021**
Time: **5:00 pm**
Place: **Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, February 03, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmzoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

 **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**
4.6-magnitude quake in Guam

At 9:46am on Jan. 26, 2021, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred at 13.978°N 144.588°E 57 km north-northwest of Asan-Maina, Guam at a depth of 194.8 kilometers. (PR)

Ortizo named to the University of Delaware dean's list

NEWARK, Delaware—Michael Roy Ortizo of Saipan has been named to the University of Delaware dean's list for the fall 2020 semester. To meet eligibility requirements for the dean's list, a student must be enrolled full-time and earn a GPA of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester.

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement

Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars that run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ Jan. 28 – Marketing to the Federal Government

– The government buys products and services differently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company on “the list”.

■ Feb. 4 – Responding to RFPs

– The Guam PTAC will walk participants through the common sections and clauses of an RFP as well as provide tips on developing a proposal in response to an RFP.

■ Feb. 11 – Teaming Arrangements & JVs

– What are they and which is right

for your business? The Guam PTAC will discuss the Federal regulations related to these arrangements and discuss ways to use these arrangements effectively.

■ Feb. 18 – Cybersecurity

– The Guam PTAC will discuss what Federal contractors can do to make sure they are complying with DOD requirements with respect to keeping data protected. DOD's upcoming Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) and the DFARS Interim Rule will be discussed.

■ Feb. 25 – PIEE

– Do you have a DOD contract and need to get paid? The Guam PTAC will explain DOD invoicing procedures using the Wide-Area Workflow module in the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment system.

Register on our website: <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting



Wednesday, February 3, 2021 | 5:00 PM
Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center | Susupe
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cnmzoning.com



AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 01/07/2021 Zoning Board Meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-4574** – P&A Corporation dba Horseback Riding is proposing to utilize a vacant lot measuring 100' (L) x 293'.9" (W) for horseback riding. This use is classified as “Amusement Outdoor” and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. E.A 116-3-4 in the village of Afetna. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial zoning district.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2020-4573** – 67Organics is proposing to renovate and utilize the 1st & 2nd floor of an existing 2-storey building structure measuring 23' (L) x 69' (W) x 11' (H) for its Cannabis Farm Use. This use is classified as a “Cannabis Farm” and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. TR 21732-18 in the village of Chalan Laulau. This area is zoned as Rural zoning district.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2020-3837** – Saipan Cares for Animals, CNMI is proposing to utilize an existing 1-storey building structure measuring 35'1" (L) x 42' (W) x 9'.11" (H) for its Veterinary Clinic or Hospital Use and to also provide 29 (Twenty-Nine) Dog Kennels on the property. This use is classified as a “Veterinary Clinic or Hospital” and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 038 I 54 in the village of As Gonno. This area is zoned as Rural zoning district.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2020-4506** – Marians Hemp Farms is proposing to utilize 2 (Two) - 20 (L) x 40 (W) Cargo Containers to construct a 1-storey building structure measuring 43'.7" (L) x 208'.10" (W) for its Cannabis Farm Use. This use is classified as “Cannabis Farm” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This site is located on Lot No. 103 D 06 in the Village of Gualo Rai. This area is zoned as Rural zoning district.
5. **Conditional Use Application #2020-4726** – Vertical Aviation, LLC is proposing to construct an extension measuring 75' (L) x 57' (W) x 22' (H) to an existing warehouse, and to construct an additional warehouse measuring 95' (L) x 75' (W) x 22' (H) for its Heliport or Helipad Use. This use is classified as “Heliport or Helipad” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 117 D 11 & 117 D 13 in the village of Puerto Rico. This area is zoned as Industrial zoning district.

C. New Business

1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

D. Miscellaneous

1. Next Meeting – March 3rd
2. Other Matters

E. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via

Zoom Video Communications
Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492?pwd=Q0daYINPMDDx0FIQRTQ4UkhFRiViU09>
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-21-018

RELOCATION OF UTILITIES AT ROAD (A-F) AND ROUTE 205/206 TINIAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Relocation of Utilities at Road A-F and Route 205/206 in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general relocation of gate valves, water meters, waterlines, fire hydrant assembly and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Defense (USDOD). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USDOD.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in 180 calendar days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **February 2, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-21-018, Relocation of Utilities at Road A-F and Route 205/206 Tinian**”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 25, 2021**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) of the total bid price shall accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 09, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Joel Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Technician, Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any non-material imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLON
Purchasing Officer

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-012

SUBMISSION DATE: February 16, 2021 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

“Replacement and Installation of Rota West Harbor Marina Docking System, Rota”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **January 13, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 5, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Rota West Harbor, Rota. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 10, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

Vaccine access: Think of others

The profit motive has been a catalyst to great improvements in the world, with many believing it to be a main driver of innovation and development. In fact, it is a foundational principle of economist Adam Smith's metaphorical concept of the "invisible hand," which postulates that profit seekers are beneficial to society in general.

But the profit motive can and does sometimes conflict with aspirations of a higher nature, such as the notion that all life is of equal value.

This conflict appears to be playing out in the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. It is a shameful display of self-interest at the real-time expense of others, a display that shines a bright light on the darker side of humanity.

The chief of the World Health Organization has lambasted drugmakers for special deals, motivated by profit, that are getting the vaccine in greater numbers to richer nations.

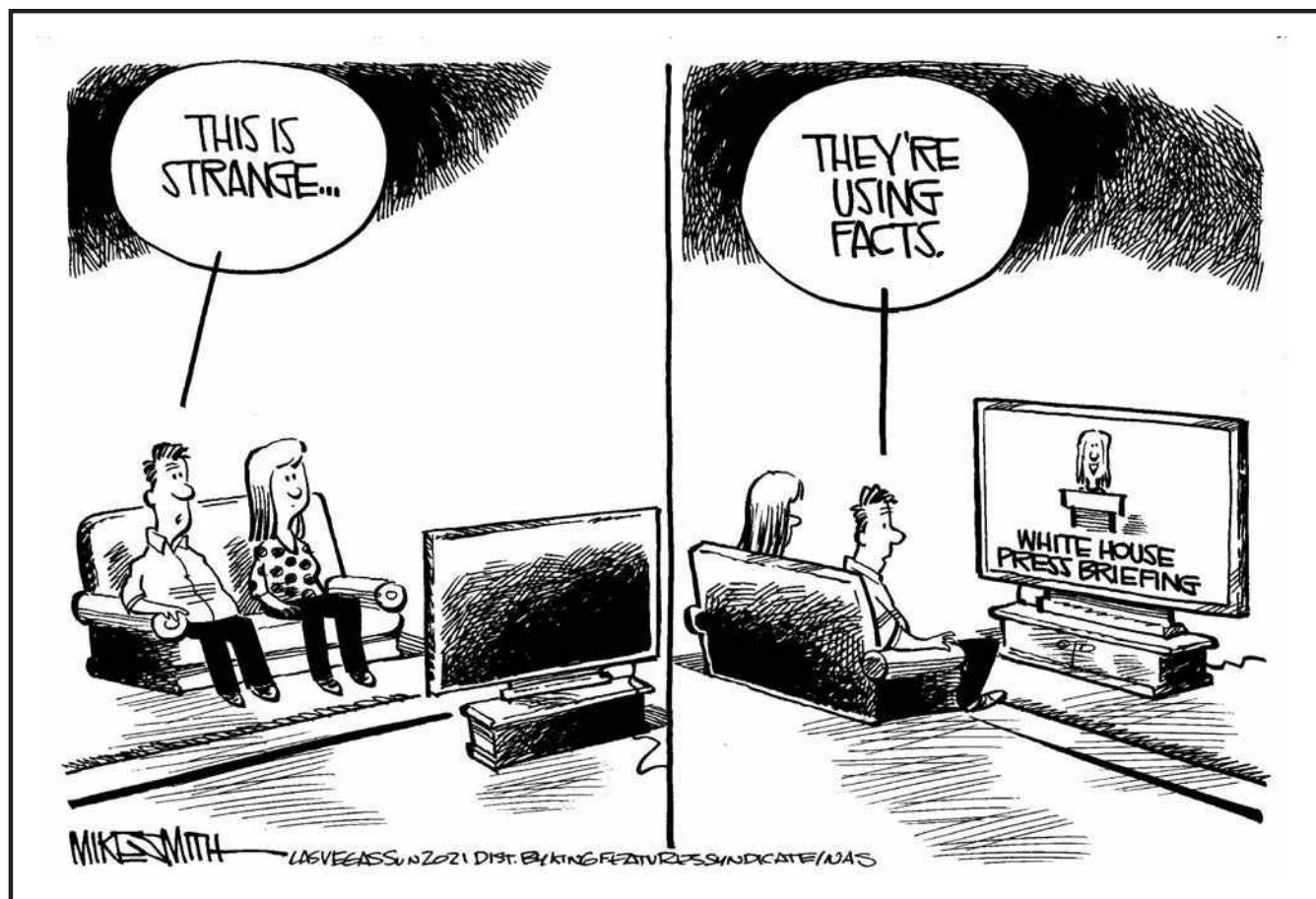
Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus contends that healthier adults in richer countries are getting vaccinated before older people and health care workers in poorer countries. He says vaccine makers have targeted locations where "profits are highest." He pointed to Guinea as a poor country that has received only 25—two dozen plus one—vaccines, compared with millions that have made it to nearly 50 more wealthy nations, including the United States and countries of the European Union. "The world is on the brink of a catastrophic moral failure," he declared.

It is understandable that all governments want to vaccinate their citizens against a pandemic that has claimed millions of lives. But nations mustn't think only of themselves. They must rise to a higher calling and consider the needs of those without influence, money and power.

"(W)e now face the real danger that even as vaccines bring hope to some, they become another brick in the wall of inequality between the worlds of the world's haves and have-nots," he lamented.

The WHO-backed "COVAX" vaccination program is supposed to get vaccines to all countries, based on need. That plan must be supported by America. It must be implemented.

Science and medicine have risen to the challenge of this historic pandemic by developing and bringing to market vaccines in record speed. Now humankind must stand up with a singular interest: the protection of all life by bridging the global divide in access to those inoculations.



Larry King's greatest on-air highlight you never saw

Election night 1988 had lasted almost 'til sunrise. Now it was almost midnight on the night after—and Larry King was about to have his greatest, or at least most astonishing, on-air moment.

It was a feat of multi-tasking that you'll never get to see in any of his highlights videos. Because he was on radio. And I was on with him. Stay tuned.

King had finished his CNN gig at 10 p.m. and was at his second nightly job across the Potomac at his even more famous Mutual Radio late night nationwide talk-radio show. What the King of broadcasting didn't know was that he was about to perform probably the all-time funniest on-air slapstick shtick that no one ever would get to see. But it's surely still a world record for radio slapstick at this time when we are recalling this broadcast legend who retired from CNN in 2010 and died Saturday in Los Angeles at 87. For it is a tale unlike any of the others you're hearing about in the more than 50,000 interviews he had with every famous person from the overlapping worlds of politics, entertainment, sports, religion, and organized- and disorganized- crime.

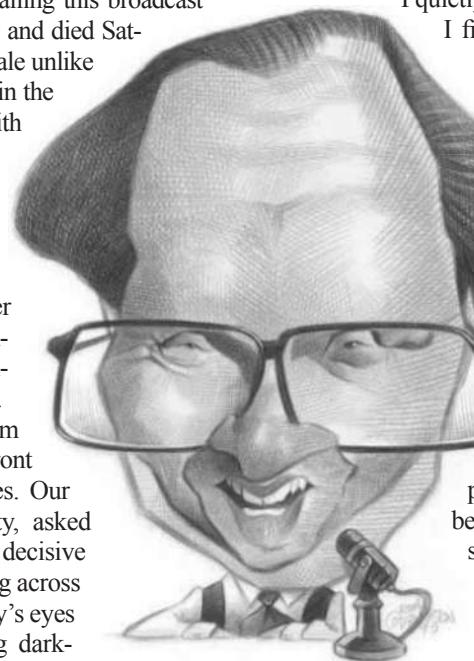
On that night in 1988, I of course knew why I was there. Late nights after election nights are throwaway bookings that the famous figures and sensible pundits turn down. So call Marty.

Larry and I were sitting across from each other at a large round table in front of those big radio studio microphones. Our first caller, a lady from Kansas City, asked something about George H. W. Bush's decisive victory over Michael Dukakis. Looking across our large radio studio table, I saw Larry's eyes slowly becoming slits behind his big dark-rimmed glasses, as they vanished behind his descending lids.

So I began my yadda-yadda. And Larry began his multi-tasking—hosting on-air radio while catching up on his lost night's sleep. His head slowly nodded forward until his chin came to rest on his chest. Behind the control room's huge window, I saw that our host's blissful serenity was not shared by his crew. His producer and engineer and producer jumped up to sprint out—until I raised my left hand and, like a cop signaling stop, I assured them that all was under control on our side of the control room glass.

By **MARTIN SCHRAM**
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



I gave my pal the gift of a few lost winks by beginning a conversational Q & A with the caller. As I talked with Kansas City, I quietly balled up a sheet of paper. After 10 minutes, I fired a paper-wad fastball across the six-foot diameter table—and plunked Broadcasting's King in the crown of his forehead. Larry's eyes popped wide-open—and without missing a beat, radio-TV's famous baritone boomed a fully alert: "Thank you Kansas City."

Now great hilarity erupted in the formerly panicked control room. King's producer held up a scrawled sign: "San Diego." And the Radio King hit the cue: "Now let's go to San Diego. What's on your mind?"

As San Diego spoke, Larry's lids again descended into slits and disappeared. I bantered with San Diego and our host began snoozing in apparently skilled, snore-free silence. Ten minutes and one more paper-wadded fastball later, King again bonked awake. He was finally refreshed enough to join his own show in mid-progress.

That concluded our classic radio slapstick shtick that you never saw on your radio—but you'll now never forget, having just seen it with your mind's eye.

EPILOGUE: I have one more "Larry King Show" tale to share—and what makes this one special is the same thing King always said was his show's secret sauce of success: It isn't really about King, but it's what made you want to keep tuning in to Larry King. This is about the predictably unpredictable Hunter Thompson, who agreed to be King's first-hour radio show guest

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Come on, government. It shouldn't be this hard getting COVID-19 vaccine into people's arms

The Postal Service delivers mail to our homes practically every day. Why couldn't government also bring us vaccinations?

Cities pick up our garbage that we roll to the curb. Water agencies send someone out to read our meters so they can bill us.

Why couldn't some vaccinator from the government—or a health care provider it contracts with—knock on the door with a COVID-19 vaccine and stick it in our arms?

Sure, the inoculator would need to be a nurse—or physician's assistant—maybe accompanied by a security guard.

It would be very costly. But so are the federal government's multitrillion-dollar pandemic relief packages that are already used up, just enacted and still being proposed. No one in power appears to be fretting about the mountain of national debt that's piling up.

Until the vast majority of us get vaccinated, hard times will continue for much of the country, including restaurants and other small businesses. For many, the cost in business and job losses is intolerable.

"If we get 70% to 85% of the country vaccinated—let's say by the end of the summer, middle of the summer—I believe by the time we get to the fall, we will be approaching a degree of normality," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the federal government's top expert on infectious diseases, told White House reporters last week in his first news briefing of the Biden administration.

"It's not going to be perfectly normal, but one that I think will take a lot of pressure off the American public."

Not exactly cheery news that it's likely to take most of the year to get enough people vaccinated.

"We didn't get into this mess overnight, and it's going to take months for us to turn this around," President Joe Biden said in signing 10 executive orders aimed at asserting his control over the pandemic fight.

OK, maybe home delivery of vaccinations is the silly fantasy of an impractical simpleton—one who grew up, however, in an era of home doctor visits that worked great.

The government has been delivering mail throughout the nation's history and has had plenty of time to iron out kinks.

But all governments—federal, state and local—had 10 months lead time to plan a better vaccine distribution system than what we currently have. In some communities, it's working OK. In others, it's confusing and chaotic.

Everyone knew the only cure for the pandemic was a vaccine. Well, we've got two—and more are probably on the way. But governments and providers are bogged down trying to get the

LARRY

From Page 8

at the 1984 Democratic Convention in San Francisco. (I was supposed be King's second-hour act.) But mindful of Hunter's wackadoodle ways, King's uniquely memorable producer, Tamara Haddad, accompanied him for an hour before hand—to assure he'd be in his convention hall studio chair on time.

When Hunter went into the men's room, she waited outside. When Hunter never came out, the irrepressible, almost 6-foot-tall, miniskirt-fashionable Tammy went in. Yup, the room was empty; yup there was a wide-open ground floor window. Tammy telephoned me: Come early! I did. But I also told her to call Hunter's favorite local barroom and tell Hunter I was commanding him to get his patootie back at once—and we'd do the whole show together. Hunter did.

Larry and I were maybe 20 minutes into the show when Hunter swooped in, sat next to me, and shared my mic. After the hi-theres, Hunter began regaling listeners with his live description that we really aren't in a convention hall, but are locked in a landlocked submarine that is sailing beneath San Francisco. Larry informed his loyal listeners that he had lost control of his show. So we just went along for the ride, as Hunter did a deep subterranean dive into Democratic politics. Larry told us that wacky night was one of his most fun shows ever. Never mind that was journalistically unmemorable, but culturally unforgettable.

What is so remarkable about Larry King's legendary career was that night after night, decade after decade, he managed to be journalistically invaluable and culturally iconic.

vaccine into people's arms.

Websites that people are directed to crash. Or they're unnavagable for average minds. Phones are never answered and don't take messages. If reservations are made, too many are canceled.

I do know four people over 75 who have gotten shots. Three did so fairly easily through their counties—Fresno and San Luis Obispo. The fourth, in Santa Clara County, encountered an awkward provider website and gave up. But she knew a retired nurse who guided her to a shot.

I fumbled around a convoluted Sutter Health website trying to grab a reservation in Sacramento County—and surrendered. My granddaughter took over and landed me a Sunday evening slot in adjacent Yolo County. I got a Moderna vaccine and booked a time for a second shot.

In California—as in many states—the vaccine rollout has been agonizingly slow.

Hundreds of thousands of doses were left sitting on shelves despite the public's desperate quest for them. Trying to make sure all doses were used, California Gov. Gavin Newsom expanded vaccination eligibility to people 65 and older, an age group that has accounted for roughly 75% of COVID-19 deaths nationwide. Then phone lines were flooded by seniors and became inoperable. And websites crashed.

The biggest problem seems to be a dire shortage of vaccine. Local health officials complain they've received only a fraction of the doses they've requested from the federal government.

But nobody in Sacramento seems to be really sure of anything. Top officials are quibbling over the accuracy of data collected by an inefficient system rather than focusing all their energy on getting people vaccinated.

Data? To paraphrase the late singer Kenny Rogers, there'll be time enough for countin' when the shots are done.

Newsom has gotten much of the blame, especially from Re-

By GEORGE SKELTON

Los Angeles Times

Political columnist George Skelton has covered government and politics for nearly 60 years and for the Los Angeles Times since 1974.



publicans trying to recall him. That's largely because he set himself up for failure by seizing the mantle of pandemic leadership in California—as he should have as governor. But Newsom's edicts often have been conflicting and confusing. And he overpromised.

One dilemma for any California governor is the state's geographic diversity. "One size doesn't fit all" is not just a cliche. California has 61 local health departments with different operations.

"A lot is done by the counties, a lot by providers, a lot by pharmacies," says Anthony Wright, who heads Health Access California, a Sacramento health care lobby, and sits on Newsom's vaccine advisory committee.

"Moving California is like moving a steamship. Only it's not really a steamship, it's a flotilla."

Biden is providing some relief for Newsom. Unlike former President Donald Trump, who tried to avoid fighting COVID-19, Biden is wading into the battle. He even invoked the Defense Production Act to ramp up manufacturing of vaccination weapons.

"For a nation waiting for action," Biden proclaimed, "help is on the way."

So maybe Newsom's off the hook. But probably not.

He really should consider home delivery, especially for us seniors. Ask the new president for help.

Sharks Bite

Football in America is the king of sports,
A game of speed and strategy, finesse and force.
From high school to pro, fierce rivalries grow
Fans add fanaticism to a majestic gridiron show.

At the westernmost reaches of America's dream
Lay two islands, each with their own football team.
Seven times, Saipan and Guam vied on the field.
Seven times, Guam's superiority was revealed.

The Marianas Bowl overflowed with wins by guam
Who won every which way, including the bomb.
One game was eighty to zip, sorry to say, it was.
Six-Seven-Oh could not win. Why? Just because.

The day, may 26, the year 2018.
The sun burned airport field mean.
The heat index hit 109, highest of the year.
Fans didn't care, they came out to cheer.

Guam took the opening kickoff and fumbled.
The Sharks defense held as the visitors stumbled.
Saipan's first drive looked promising, Norita to Jones
As they advanced the pigskin between the cones.

The players clashed, bodies smashed and heads bashed.
Unfortunately for the Sharks, their first drive crashed.
Guam's offense wanted to go long.
Too bad for them, they threw to Taitingfong.

The first quarter ended in a tie with no score.
The squads sweat buckets but wanted more.
The second period started out quite well
For the winless team, that we could tell.

Fital was a big hit for the Sharks offense.
The passing attack was making sense.
So did handing off to Toilolo.
Down the field – go, go, go.

LITERARY NOOK

By BOB COLDEEN

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Bob Coldeen is a longtime TV journalist in the CNMI and is news director/reporter of KSPN 2.

Sharks break the goose egg on the board
On a pass to Jones, that's how we scored.
Not done, on third and forty-one
Hartzel came up huge, we weren't done.

Before the halftime clock could expire
The sharks scored again, we were on fire.
Kaipat's conversion made it twenty-zip.
First time Guam was having a bad trip.

Third quarter, Toilolo was a vicious ball carrier
Sixty-three yards, knocking down every barrier.
Guam responded with their deepest drive.
Alvarez led the visitors inside the five.

With the shutout threatened the D stood tall.
Standish, Grow and all made a formidable wall.
Guam never did score that fateful day
This time the cnmi boys came to play.

The losing streak finally came to an end.
Celebration lasted all memorial day weekend.
The beautiful Marianas bowl stayed on Saipan.
For the sharks, that was always the game plan.

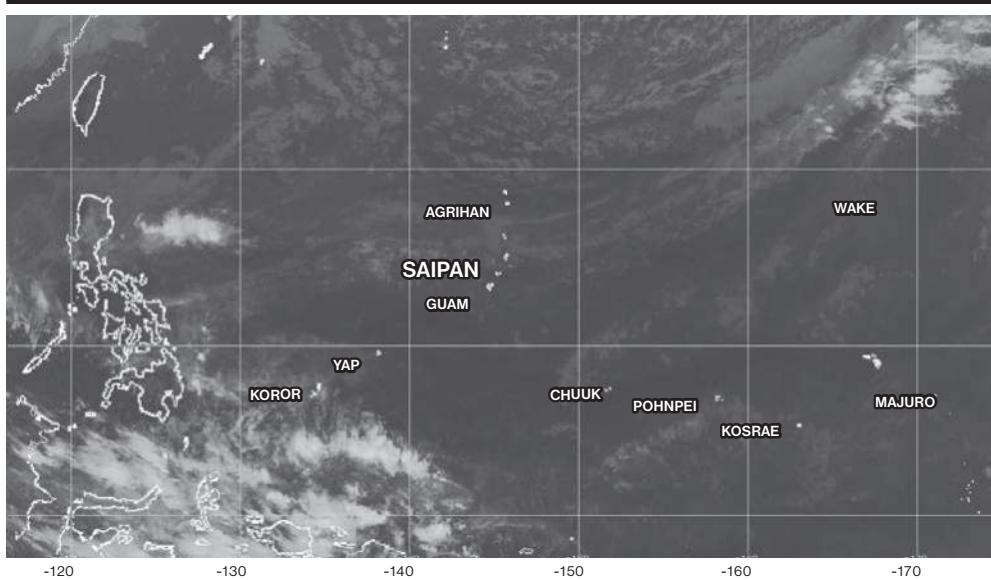
The final tally was twenty-six to nothing.
That victory for this team was really something.
This was our whole season too, you know.
Yeah, CNMI, we won one in a row!

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Partly cloudy after noon. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East to northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87°	77°	86°	77°	87°
87°	77°	87°	77°	87°
87°	77°	87°	77°	87°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:47 AM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle north to northeast winds prevail this morning. Guam radar shows a batch of showers pushing through Guam and Rota this morning but accumulations are minimal. A weakening cold front, currently 80 miles north of Saipan, continues to trek southward. Combined seas are around 4 feet with east trade swell and northeast wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas

to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>.
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Source: Office of the Governor

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

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MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:12 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:13 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:13 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:16 AM	4:45 PM
Thursday	-	6:10 AM	5:43 PM
Friday	-	7:02 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	-	7:51 AM	7:39 PM
Sunday	-	8:37 AM	8:37 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Showers	77° / 64°
Beijing	Rain	55° / 54°
Hong Kong	Showers	66° / 64°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	80° / 70°
London	Showers	43° / 36°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	69° / 54°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°
Miami	Showers	76° / 66°
New York	Showers	38° / 35°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	45° / 36°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 43°
Busan	Windy	43° / 28°
Rome	Showers	61° / 48°
Salem	Rain	56° / 41°
San Francisco	Showers	43° / 28°
Seoul	Sunny	30° / 16°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	55° / 37°
Washington, DC	Rain	40° / 35°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
00:50 AM	Low Tide	-0.34
8:03 AM	High Tide	1.83
1:16 PM	Low Tide	1.27
5:56 PM	High Tide	1.87

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS							
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN							
UA117 6:55am 7:35am 1, 4, 6				UA174 5:10am 5:51am 1, 4, 6							
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN							
UA117/183 6:55am 9:50pm 1 via Guam				UA184/174 10:40pm 5:51am+1 3, 5 via Guam							
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM							
UA183 8:00pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 5				UA184 10:40pm 4:30am+1 1, 3, 5							
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)											
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.											
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021											
SAIPAN TO ROTA				TINIAN TO SAIPAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1301											

Business

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Maria Lowedeth Lumauag is carrying on her mother's entrepreneurial spirit with today's opening of Maria's Café across Kentucky Fried Chicken in Chalan Kanoa.

The 23-year-old Northern Marianas College student said her mother, Editha, used to have a beauty parlor and a barbecue stand and the opening of their snack bar today only



Maria Loued Jane Lumauag cuts the ribbon signifying the opening of Maria's Café with her parents Edita and Lowell Lumauag.

Docomo Pacific brings best value to CNMI with new mobile 'Access Plans'

GUALO RAI, Saipan—Docomo Pacific, regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, offers affordable Access plans to CNMI customers.

Docomo Pacific continues to make necessary network investments to be the telecommunication provider CNMI customers can rely on. In addition, the telecommunications company launched our new Access mobile phone plans that boast more value, more savings and are all you'll ever need from a mobile plan.

Access vs. Traditional Unlimited Plans

With traditional unlimited data plans, customers pay a high monthly rate for as much data as they want (unlimited). Unlimited use is attractive, but once you meet a prescribed data cap (or speed cap), overall data speeds will slow down. Meaning, for the remainder of the month, you can use mobile data freely, but at throttled (or slower) speeds.

Docomo Pacific's Access plans take a different approach. First, they offer LTE Data of up to 25GB. Second, these plans come

New SNACK BAR opens in Chalan Kanoa

continues the family's desire to run their own business.

"Our family has always been entrepreneurial and we've always been interested in opening a snack bar. My mom, Editha, actually opened a few businesses before, like a beauty parlor and a barbecue stand. Then we decided we should probably just hold

off and save some money and open up something big," she said.

Not even the COVID-19 pandemic has stopped them from their lifelong dream of opening and running a snack bar.

"During the pandemic we noticed everyone's so interested in buying food. Everyone is bored cause there's nothing much to do here and people want to spend their money on something new," Lumauag said.

Good thing Maria's Café has a couple of new items Saipan foodies would be interested in. One such snack is *elotés*, which, according to serioseats.

For more information, call 285-9474 or 284-6043

Cheetos on our version of *elotés*," said Lumauag.

com, is a classic Mexican street food made from corn on the cob that is charred on the grill, then slathered in a spicy and creamy chili-, garlic-, and

Cotija cheese-spiked sauce.

"But we're doing a fusion because we're catering to the local palate so we put Flaming Hot Cheetos and Cheesy



Maria Lowedeth Lumauag, right, poses with family during the grand opening of Maria's Café last Saturday.

United launches industry-exclusive technology to ease burden of travel restrictions

United Airlines launched the "Travel-Ready Center"—a new, digital solution where customers can review COVID-19 entry requirements, find local testing options and upload any required testing and vaccination records for domestic and international travel, all in one place. United is the first airline to integrate all these features into its mobile app and website.

"While pre-travel testing and documentation are key to safely reopening global travel, we know it can be confusing for customers when they're preparing for a flight," said Linda Jojo, Executive Vice President for Technology and Chief Digital Officer, United. "Starting today, our 'Travel-Ready Center' gives customers a personalized, step-by-step guide of what is needed for their trip, a simple way to upload required documents and quickly get their boarding pass, fully integrated within our app and website."

In the weeks and months ahead, United will add more innovative, industry-first features to the Travel-Ready Center platform to make navigating evolving entry requirements even easier. United customers will soon be able to:

- Schedule a COVID-19 test at one of more than 15,000 testing sites around the world, right from the app or website.
- Access the recently launched "Agent on Demand", a United-exclusive feature that gives customers the ability to video chat live with a customer service agent to answer any questions about pre-travel requirements or documentation.
- View details about visa requirements for the countries they plan to visit.

Customers with an active reservation can access the Travel-Ready Center through the "My Trips" section of the United App and on united.com. The Travel-Ready Center will provide tailored details on requirements for all travelers 18 and older on a customer's itinerary, with status indicators noting if they are travel-ready based on specific requirements each individual needs to meet in order to board

their flight, including any additional requirements for connecting flights. Documents uploaded by a passenger will be reviewed by designated personnel for verification. The individual status indicators for each passenger will then note whether they are "travel ready" and they will be allowed to complete the check-in process. Customers should still plan to bring the physical documents to the airport in case further inspection is needed along their journey.

The Travel-Ready Center is just one of many new technologies the airline has introduced to create a safer and more efficient experience for customers. United recently redesigned its mobile app with new enhancements intended to make travel easier for people with visual disabilities.

introduced Destination Travel Guide, which allows customers to filter and view destinations' COVID-19 related travel restrictions, and debuted a new chat function to give customers a contact-

sisters are all named Maria, with the other two named Maria Loued Jane and Maria Loidalyn. Their brother, Lowell Jr., also helps out in the snack bar.

Another thing working for Maria's Café is its location. Being a stone's throw away from Mount Carmel Church and Mount Carmel School is always a good start.

"We're trying to target students from Mount Carmel, Hopwood Middle School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, and Saipan Community School. This part of Beach Road is just a very busy street so we're lucky and pinning our hopes that this would give us good traffic," Lumauag said.

As an introductory promotion, Maria's Café will be offering free lemonade for every \$10 spent on the snack bar. There will also be an ongoing raffle that will give customers a chance to win daily prizes like T-shirts, caps, and perfume.

Maria's Café is located beside CK Internet & Computer Shop in Chalan Kanoa and is open Monday-Saturday from 7am to 9pm. It can seat 20 customers under the guidelines set by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force. For more information, call 285-9474 or 284-6043. You can also reach them through their social media accounts under the "Maria's Café 670" handle on Facebook and Instagram.



MARK RABAGO

Maria's Café is located beside CK Internet & Computer Shop in Chalan Kanoa and is open Monday-Saturday from 7am to 9pm.

Cheetos on our version of *elotés*," said Lumauag.

Aside from the famed Mexican street food, Maria's Café also has other new snacks like Hurricane Popcorn (Hawaiian-style popcorn), Deconstructed Halo-Halo, Baconator Fries, Premium Grilled Cheese (made from cream cheese, mozzarella, and cheddar), and three types of waffles (chocolate chip, ube, and regular waffles). For drinks, Lumauag said they have cold and hot drinks and matcha and green tea boba.

"Maria's Café offers a different twist on regular snacks. I'm a foodie myself and I know people always want to try something new. I'm just afraid people won't like it but you really can't please everybody," she said.

As to why the snack bar is named Maria's Café, Lumauag said she and her two other

less option to receive immediate access to information about cleaning and safety procedures.

This year, United made numerous enhancements to its business that improve the travel experience for its customers. The carrier eliminated most change fees, pledged to reduce its greenhouse gases 100% by 2050, teamed up with Clorox and the Cleveland Clinic to guide its cleaning and safety protocols as a part of United CleanPlusSM, extended MileagePlus[®] Premier[®] status to all customers through January 2022 and made earning status for the next two years easier for all MileagePlus members.

United also announced this year that beginning in January, all customers will be able to fly standby on another flight to the same destination on the same day for free, and all MileagePlus Premier members will be able to confirm a new flight on the same day to the same destinations at check-in when space is available in the same fare class. (PR)

Nation

US virus numbers drop, but race against new strains heats up

Coronavirus deaths and cases per day in the U.S. dropped markedly over the past couple of weeks but are still running at alarmingly high levels, and the effort to snuff out COVID-19 is becoming an ever more urgent race between the vaccine and the mutating virus.

The government's top infectious-disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, said the improvement in numbers around the country appears to reflect a "natural peaking and then plateauing" after a holiday surge, rather than the arrival of the vaccine in mid-December.

The U.S. is recording just under 3,100 deaths a day on average, down from more than 3,350 less than two weeks ago. New cases are averaging about 170,000 a day after peaking at almost 250,000 on Jan. 11. The number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients has fallen to about 110,000 from a high of 132,000 on Jan. 7.

States that have been hot spots in recent weeks such as California and Arizona have shown similar improvements during the same period.

On Monday, California lifted regional stay-at-home orders in favor of county-by-county restrictions and ended a 10 p.m. curfew. The shift will allow restaurants and churches to resume outdoor operations and hair and nail salons to reopen in many places, though local officials could maintain stricter rules.

Elsewhere, Minnesota

school districts have begun bringing elementary students back for in-person learning. Chicago's school system, the nation's third-largest district, had hoped to bring teachers back Monday to prepare for students to return next month, but the teachers union has refused. Illinois announced that more counties will be able to offer limited indoor dining.

"I don't think the dynamics of what we're seeing now with the plateauing is significantly influenced yet—it will be soon—but yet by the vac-

cine. I just think it's the natural course of plateauing," Fauci told NBC's "Today."

Ali Mokdad, a professor of health metrics sciences at the University of Washington, said that a predicted holiday surge was reduced by people traveling less than expected, and an increase in mask-wearing in response to spikes in infections has since helped bring the numbers down.

Caitlin Rivers, an epidemiologist at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, said too few people have been

vaccinated so far for that to have had a significant impact on virus trends. She said she can't predict how long it will take for the vaccines' effects to be reflected in the numbers.

Rivers said she is concerned that the more contagious variants of the virus could lead to a deadly resurgence later this year.

"I think we were on track to have a good—or a better, at least—spring and summer, and I'm worried that the variants might be throwing us a curveball," she said.

California lifts virus stay-at-home orders, curfew statewide

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Gov. Gavin Newsom lifted stay-at-home orders across the state Monday in response to improving coronavirus conditions, a surprising move hailed by beleaguered businesses. But some local health officials worried could undo the recent sharp drop in cases and hospitalizations.

"We're seeing a flattening of the curve—everything that should be up is up, everything that should be down is down—case rates, positivity rates, hospitalizations, ICUs," Newsom told reporters.

The turnaround came about a month after hospitals crafted emergency plans for rationing care and as intensive care unit capacity in the vast Southern California region currently stands at 0%. State data models forecast that the region's ICU capacity will rise to 33%—the highest of any of the state's five regions—by Feb. 21.

The lifting of the stay-at-



In this Jan. 23, 2021, file photo, Dorothy Kade, left, holds the hand of her husband, Walter Kade Jr., as they wait in the observation room after he received a COVID-19 vaccine at the VA Medical Center, in Philadelphia. AP

Nationwide, about 19.3 million people, or less than 6% of the U.S. population, have received at least one dose of the vaccine, including about 3 million who have gotten the second shot, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 55% of the 41 million doses distributed to the states by the federal government have been injected into arms, by the CDC's count.

The virus has killed over 419,000 Americans and infected more than 25 million, with a widely cited University of Washington model projecting the death toll will reach about 569,000 by May 1. (AP)

Biden more bullish on vaccines, open to 1.5M daily shot goal

WASHINGTON (AP)—

President Joe Biden on Monday appeared to boost his goal for coronavirus vaccinations in his first 100 days in office, suggesting the nation could soon be injecting 1.5 million shots on an average per day.

Biden signaled his increasing bullishness on the pace of vaccinations after signing an executive order to boost government purchases from U.S. manufacturers. It was

among a flurry of moves by Biden during his first full week to show he's taking swift action to heal an ailing economy as talks with Congress over a \$1.9 trillion stimulus package showed few signs of progress.

Biden reiterated that he believes the country is in a precarious spot and that relief is urgently needed, even as he dismissed the possibility of embracing a scaled-down bill to secure passage faster.

Among the features of the stimulus plan are a national vaccination program, aid to reopen schools, direct payments of \$1,400 to individuals and financial relief for state and local governments.

"Time is of the essence," Biden said. "I am reluctant to cherry-pick and take out one or two items here."

Biden's new vaccination target comes after he and his aides faced criticism for the 100 million goal in his first

100 days in office. The U.S. has exceeded a pace of 1 million doses per day over the last week.

"I think we may be able to get that to ... 1.5 million a day, rather than 1 million a day," Biden said, "but we have to meet that goal of a million a day."

Biden added that he expects widespread availability of the vaccines for Americans by spring, with the U.S. "well on our way to herd immunity" necessary to end the pandemic by summer. Even so, he warned the nation was going to be "in this for a while, and could see between 600,000 and 660,000 deaths before we begin to turn the corner in a major way."

As of Sunday, the federal government had distributed 41.4 million vaccine doses to states and other jurisdictions. Of that, 21.8 million doses had been administered, or about 53%. About 3.2 million people had received their full two-dose vaccination, a little less than 1% of the population. That's according to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Already, more than 420,000 Americans have died from the coronavirus.

Biden's team held a call Sunday to outline the stimulus plan with at least a dozen senators, while the president also privately talked with lawmakers.

home order allows restaurants and churches to resume outdoor operations and hair and nail salons to reopen in many areas, though local officials could choose to impose stricter rules. The state is also lifting a 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew.

Most California counties will return to the most restrictive purple tier of a four-tier, color-coded system for determining what businesses can be open.

Northern California was never under the stay-at-home order and the Greater Sacramento region exited two weeks ago. Now, the San Francisco Bay Area, the San Joaquin Valley agricultural region and Southern California, covering the majority of the state's counties, may exit the order.

The state predicted the following regional ICU capacity in four weeks: 25% for the Bay Area; 27.3% in Greater Sacramento; 22.3% in the San Joaquin Valley and 18.9% in

Northern California.

After the stay-at-home order was lifted, elected officials in many counties announced they would move to allow the reopening of outdoor restaurant dining and other services.

"We will be moving forward with some limited reopenings, including outdoor dining and personal services," San Francisco Mayor London Breed said in a tweet.

Heavily populated Orange County south of Los Angeles planned to lift some restrictions as well, said Jessica Good, a spokesperson for the county health agency.

In Los Angeles County, home to 10 million people, county Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said outdoor dining will reopen Friday with capacity limits for restaurants.

Newsom imposed the stay-at-home order in December as coronavirus cases worsened. Under the state-imposed

system for closures, multi-county regions had to shut down most businesses and order people to stay home when ICU capacity dropped below 15%. The state makes its decisions based on four-week projections showing ICU capacity improving.

Officials have not disclosed the data behind the forecasts, though Dr. Mark Ghaly, secretary of the state's health and human services agency, said the state would make more data public later Monday.

Last weekend, San Francisco Bay Area ICU capacity surged to 23% while the San Joaquin Valley's ICU capacity increased to 1.3%.

Republicans said Newsom was relaxing the rules in response to political pressure and the threat of a recall. Republican organizers have until mid-March to gather 1.5 million signatures to force a recall vote against Newsom, who is halfway through his first term.

World

Navalny's team calls new protests in Russia for his release

MOSCOW (AP)—Allies of jailed Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who faces years in prison, called for new protests next weekend to demand his release, following a wave of demonstrations that turned out tens of thousands across the country in a defiant challenge to President Vladimir Putin.

Mass rallies took place Saturday in over 100 cities in what observers said was the largest outpouring of anger in years, and Navalny's supporters urged protesters to keep up the pressure.

Navalny strategist Leonid Volkov tweeted Monday for

more demonstrations on Jan. 31 in "all Russian cities. ... For Navalny's freedom. For our freedom. For justice."

During Saturday's protests, over 3,700 people were detained, according to OVD-Info, a human rights group that monitors political arrests. The group said the number was a record in its nine years of work. More than 1,400 detentions occurred in Moscow alone—also a record, according to Russian media.

Some of those detained were released without charges, but many others faced court hearings. In Moscow, courts have handed jail terms ranging from

seven to 15 days to at least 30 detainees and fined 64 others.

Authorities also launched more than a dozen criminal investigations in Moscow, St. Petersburg and other Russian cities on charges of inciting unrest, involving minors in illegal activity, violence against police, blocking roads, hooliganism and damaging property. Navalny's team said Russia's Investigative Committee also is probing violations of virus-related restrictions.

Dozens of Navalny associates in various cities were detained in the days before the protests. Alexander Peredru, senior partner of the Apologia

of Protest legal aid group involved in the defense of over 1,000 detainees from the Saturday protests, called the authorities' response "unprecedented."

Navalny, an anti-corruption campaigner and Putin's fiercest critic, was arrested Jan. 17 as he returned to Russia from Germany, where he had spent nearly five months recovering from nerve-agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin. Russian authorities deny the accusations.

He was ordered jailed for 30 days but faces years in prison, with authorities accusing him of violating the terms of a suspended sentence in a 2014 con-

viction for financial misdeeds. Navalny has said the conviction was politically motivated.

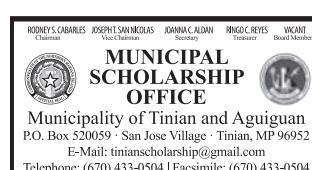
Navalny's arrest and the detention of demonstrators sparked outrage both at home and abroad, and some Western officials suggested imposing additional sanctions on Russia for its jailing of Navalny.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki urged the immediate and unconditional release of Navalny, as well as those who were detained in the crackdown. Psaki did not say when President Joe Biden plans to speak to Putin.

Biden was asked if he would put sanctions on the people in-

volved in the poisoning and arrest of Navalny and what that means for prospects of the extension of the New START nuclear arms treaty with Russia.

"I find that we can both operate in the mutual self-interest of our countries as a New START agreement and make it clear to Russia that we are very concerned about their behavior," he said, whether it involved Navalny or some other issue.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 02, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Tinian Public Library, San Jose Village Tinian.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes
 - December 22, 2020 (TMSB Regular Meeting)
 - January 13, 2021 (TMSB Regular Meeting)
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Review & approval of Spring 2021 applicants
 - B. Discussion on waiving the notary requirement for Spring 2021 semester
 - C. Discussion on students having less than 12 units to complete a course requirement
 - D. Discussion on the possible extension for the Supporting Documents deadline
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
- V. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING
- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Rodney S. Cabarles
Chairman

*We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
*Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

China's Xi calls for unity in fighting virus, climate change

Countries must cooperate more closely in fighting the challenges of the pandemic and climate change and in supporting a sustainable global economic recovery, Chinese President Xi Jinping said Monday in an address to the World Economic Forum.

"Humanity has only Earth and one future," Xi said in remarks from Beijing to a virtual gathering that is taking place in lieu of the annual in-person meetings in Davos, Switzerland, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Fighting the pandemic is the most urgent task facing the international community," Xi said, in urging that countries cooperate to conquer the disease, which first was reported

in the central Chinese city of Wuhan just over a year ago.

"In particular, we should strengthen cooperation in vaccine research and development, production and distribution, so that vaccines can truly become a public good that are accessible and affordable to people in all countries," he said.

Much of what the Chinese leader said was a reiteration of Beijing's usual stance on issues such as closing the gap between wealthy and developing nations, and warning that countries should not meddle in other countries' affairs.

While Xi did not mention recent U.S. policies directly, he did call for sticking to rules, embracing diversity and avoiding confrontations over

trade and technology.

Relations between the U.S. and China have sunk to their worst in decades as former President Donald Trump imposed punitive tariffs and other sanctions to try to gain concessions on trade and counter perennial trade deficits.

"We should advocate fair competition, like competing with each other for excellence in a racing field, not beating each other on a wrestling arena," Xi said.

"To engage in cliques, a new Cold War, exclusion, threats and intimidation against others, to warn of decoupling, cutting off supplies, sanctions at every turn... can only drive the world to division and even conflict," he said.

Xi said countries need to better coordinate their economic policies, avoid protec-

"A divided world cannot tackle the common challenges facing humanity, and confrontation will lead humanity to a dead end," Xi said.

Just days after his inauguration, President Joe Biden has yet to set out his administration's own policies on trade with China, though he is adopting a more conventional approach than Trump's "America First" stance in handling global issues such as the pandemic and global warming. Few experts expect Biden to significantly soften the U.S. stance on trade and technology given longstanding friction over a wide range of issues, including human rights.

Xi said countries need to better coordinate their economic policies, avoid protec-

tionism and other barriers to trade and cooperation to support a global economic recovery and ensure the stability of world financial systems.

"Despite trillions of dollars countries around the world rolled out in economic remedies, the momentum of the global economic recovery remains very unstable, and there is great uncertainty about the outlook," Xi said.

Other leaders expected to address the virtual forum include Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The forum has said it plans to hold its annual meeting in person in May in Singapore. (AP)

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
2390 Beach Road, Oleai CDA Bldg., Unit 205, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
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Website: www.developcnmi.com

**INVITATION FOR BIDS
2021-CDA-04-IFB**

CLOSING DATE: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 • **TIME:** 10:00 am

"JANITORIAL and LAWN CARE SERVICES"

Copies of the proposal package may be picked up at the 2390 Beach Road Oleai, CDA Bldg., Unit 205, Saipan during regular working hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays, and on our website.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
RFQ NO.: DPW/FHWA21-RFQ-015**

SUBMISSION DATE: February 24, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Construction Management Services for Route 33 (Beach Road) Improvements, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DPW, TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, 2ND FLOOR, OLEAI COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **February 09, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the DPW Conference Room, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 16, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director** Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-OGM-042**

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2021 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF THREE (3) NEW PICK-UP TRUCK 4WD/4-FULL-DOORS FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARNINGHOUSE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
AUDIT MANAGER**

EXAMINATION NO. OPA-21-001
Opening Date: 1/14/21 Closing Date: 1/28/21

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Garapan.

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Email: mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481 Fax: (670) 322-7812

Good Housekeeping

A beautiful tart to showcase the scariest of fruits

By BEN MIMS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Buddha's Hand Tart,
made with Buddha's
Hand Citrus.



RICARDO DEARATANHA/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Every January, I anticipate buying nothing but citrus. Walking the farmers market aisles, I get too excited by the sight of it to resist grabbing as much as I can carry before my tote bag's straps start bruising my shoulders. The citrus that calls to me most is Buddha's hand citron, that tentacled yellow hand from the black lagoon that you may have seen at some stands and gawked at in horror. I laugh from the looks I get as I walk up and ask for a half-dozen while everyone around me, buying normal oranges and mandarins, grimaces in queasy confusion.

Buddha's hand—a variety of "open-hand" citron in which the "fingers" of the fruit splay outward rather than inward—is an anomaly in the citrus world because it's all pith covered in zest; there's no pulp. The zest is heavily fragrant and sharp but softer than lemon.

Further differentiating, its pith is barely bitter at all, so you can eat it raw. In years past, I've always cut it into chunks and used it to make marmalade with less sugar than is needed for orange peels. But this year, as a redirect from the endless cakes and cookies I made during the fall holiday season, I'm making a tart with it. And when thinking about the bitter-less qualities of its pith, my mind goes straight to Shaker lemon pie.

Traditionally, Shaker lemon pie is made with whole slices of lemon, rind and all, surrounded by custard and baked in a simple pastry crust. The lemon slices are macerated in sugar overnight to soften their texture and their bite. With my version, though, I can use less sugar because the Buddha's hand is already tender and less acerbic. An addition of yo-

gurt and vanilla bean paste (you can use extract too) enriches the custard filling and balances the aroma of the zest, which, for some people, can border on the floor-cleaner side of citrus scents.

Built as a tart, the proportion of filling to buttery pastry allows you to appreciate the Buddha's hand's delicate slices. It also makes for a gorgeous presentation, showing off the cross-sections that form a beautiful daisy pattern on top. Though, if you have trypophobia—a fear of clusters of small holes—this tart might send you shrieking as much as those shoppers at the markets.

In queasy confusion.

The Buddha's hand slices in this tart create a striking presentation on top. A mandoline makes quick work of the slicing, but a sharp chef's knife and a steady hand will also work. Glazing the top of the tart with the jam isn't necessary if serving right away, but it does help give the tart a beautiful finish and keeps the top from drying out.

You will have leftover slices of fruit, but you can use them in many other ways. Toss a handful of thin slices into an arugula salad with Parmesan shavings, grind some zest with salt or sugar in a food processor to make flavored seasonings, add slices to vodka and sugar to make your own liqueur or add a handful of chopped slices to your favorite lemon bar recipe for an extra pop of citrusy brightness.

Filling

- 1 whole Buddha's hand citron
- 277 grams (1 1/3 cups) granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon vanilla bean paste (or 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract)
- 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt (or 1 teaspoon Diamond Crystal kosher salt)

- 1/4 cup plain full-fat yogurt or sour cream
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and cooled
- 4 teaspoons all-purpose flour
- 2 large eggs, room temperature

Pastry Dough

- 213 grams (1 1/2 cups) all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt (or 1 teaspoon Diamond Crystal kosher salt)
- 113 grams (1/2 cup/1 stick) cold unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1/4 cup ice-cold water
- 2 tablespoons apricot jam or orange marmalade combined with 1 teaspoon hot water, to make a glaze

1 Macerate the fruit for the filling: Rinse the Buddha's hand under warm water, making sure to flush out its crevices where the "fingers" join. Shake the fruit dry, then cut off any dried or withered tips of the fingers. Using a mandoline set over a cutting board, slice each finger until you reach the larger "base" of the fruit. Measure out 170 grams/6 ounces and place all the small cross-section rounds in a bowl. If you need more fruit to reach the weight (or want a few larger slices for the top of the tart), continue slicing the base until you have enough and add them to the bowl. Use the rest of the fruit for another use (see note above).

2 Pour enough boiling water over the slices to cover them, then let stand for 10 minutes. Drain the slices, return to the bowl and add the sugar, vanilla bean paste (or extract), lemon juice and salt. Toss to combine, ensuring each slice is coated in sugar. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and let stand at room temperature for at least 24 hours or up to 3 days.

3 Meanwhile, make the pastry dough: In the bowl of a food processor or in a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar and salt and pulse or whisk to combine. Add the butter and pulse until it forms pea-size crumbles in the flour, about 10 pulses; or rub the butter into the flour with your fingers. Drizzle in the ice-cold water and pulse just until the crumbles are moistened, about 6 pulses; or use a fork to toss the flour and butter with the water in the bowl until the dough starts to come together.

Scrape the dough crumbles onto a work surface and knead briefly to combine. Shape the dough into a 3/4-inch-thick disk and wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate at least 1 hour or, preferably, for 24 hours. The pastry disk will hold in the refrigerator for up to 2 days.

4 Remove the dough disk from the refrigerator and transfer to a floured work surface. Using a floured rolling pin, flatten the dough into a round that is 1/8-inch thick, about 14 inches in diameter. Transfer the round to a 9 1/2-inch tart pan with a removable bottom and allow it to gently sink into the pan, pressing it lightly against the corner and up the sides. Place your rolling pin over the pan and roll it over the edges to trim the excess pastry. Transfer the pan to the refrigerator while you prepare the filling.

5 Line a baking sheet with foil (not parchment paper) and place in a cold oven, then heat the oven to 400 degrees.

6 In a medium bowl, combine the yogurt and butter and whisk until smooth. Add the flour, 1 teaspoon at a time and stir until smooth between each addition, until it is fully incorporated (this helps avoid lumps in the flour). Add the eggs and whisk until smooth. Scrape the egg mixture over the sliced Buddha's hand and stir with a small silicone spatula or spoon until everything is evenly combined, making sure to separate any slices of fruit that may be stuck together.

7 Scrape the filling over the chilled pastry in the tart pan. All the sliced fruit will pile in the center of the tart, so use your fingers to separate them so they are suspended evenly throughout the custard. Make sure to arrange any particularly attractive slices on top so they show in the finished tart.

8 Place the tart on the hot baking sheet in the oven and bake, rotating the sheet halfway through, until the filling is puffed and lightly browned at its edges, and the pastry is cooked through and golden brown, about 30 minutes. Remove the sheet from the oven and let the tart cool completely in the pan.

9 Place the jam or marmalade and water for the glaze in a small bowl and stir until loosened. Pour the mixture through a fine sieve into a bowl, then use a pastry brush to lightly brush the top of the tart with the jam glaze. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

Water Cooler: Create a DIY family spa day

By RACHEL BAKER
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, SPOKANE, WASH.

You might still be stuck at home, but that doesn't mean your family can't enjoy a little retreat. Here are some fun ideas for having your own spa day at home.

The prerequisite to any spa day is to have some sort of fancy beverage on hand. Spruce up some regular water with slices of cucumber, citrus or fruit. You could also use sparkling water, or purchase your favorite soda and garnish with a slice of lime. Try a nice tea or hot chocolate if you want something a bit cozier.

Snacks are another must. Try making a kid-friendly charcuterie board with crackers, chips, cheese slices or cubes, some salami or deli meat, berries, diced fruit, chopped vegetables and dipping sauces. If you want to do a dessert tray, you can make it fancy with no hassle by cutting purchased desserts into small pieces and putting them in cupcake liners or serving them with toothpicks.

Before you get into the spa treatments, set up a special area to set the scene for your spa so it feels more like an escape from regular home life. It takes a little imagination, but a fun set up will help. Lay out beach towels so all family members can have their own "spa bed" and lay a tray or plate next to each one so everyone has a place to set their drink and snacks. You can also set out candles and spa slippers (even if they are just your normal house slippers) and put on some relaxing music to help create an air of luxury.

There are tons of DIY food-based face masks you can find online, but make sure that nobody in your family is allergic to the ingredients. You can always do a small test patch of the mask on your wrist to make sure there is no reaction. The best part about making a face mask from edible ingredients is that it is inexpensive and usually gentle on the skin. For a soothing face mask, mix one cup of cooked oatmeal, 6 tablespoons of honey and 6 tablespoons of plain yogurt. You can apply them with your fingers, or buy new paint brushes at a dollar store to paint on the facial. If you want to pull out all the stops for your facial, don't forget to put everyone's hair up in a towel and put cucumber slices over your eyes.

Take turns giving each other feet and hand massages, using either your favorite lotion or a skin-friendly oil like jojoba, olive or coconut oil. You may be tempted to use essential oils, but make sure only the adults have access to them as they are strong and can even cause chemical burns if not used properly. Don't use them on your hands to avoid anyone getting them in their eyes.

Heat some water on the stove for a foot soak for the family. Use bins you have at home that can fit your feet, or buy some plastic tubs at a dollar store. Toss in a little bit of Epsom salt and pour over warm water. Test the water first to make sure it isn't too hot. Have a clean pair of socks and a small towel handy so when your feet are done soaking you can dry them off, apply a little lotion or oil, and put your feet directly in socks so they can stay warm and moisturized.

A DIY spa day takes a little setup but it's a great way to enjoy some family self-care and quality time together without screens.

Life & Style

Goade becomes first Native American to win Caldecott Medal

NEW YORK (AP)—Illustrator Michaela Goade became the first Native American to win the prestigious Randolph Caldecott Medal for best children's picture story, cited for "We Are Water Protectors," a celebration of nature and condemnation of the "black snake" Dakota Access Pipeline.

"I am really honored and proud," the 30-year-old Goade told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "I think it's really important for young people and aspiring book makers

and other creative people to see this."

Tae Keller's chapter book "When You Trap a Tiger," in which a young Korean-American explores her identity and her heritage through her grandmother's stories, won the John Newbery Medal for the outstanding children's work overall of 2020. Keller, who was raised in Hawaii and now lives in New York, drew upon Korean folklore and family history for "When You Trap a Tiger," also named the year's best Asian/Pacific American literature.

Pompeii's museum comes back to life to display amazing finds

POMPEII, Italy (AP)—Decades after suffering bombing and earthquake damage, Pompeii's museum has been reborn, showing off exquisite finds from excavations of the ancient Roman city.

Officials of the archeological park of the ruins of the city destroyed in 79 A.D. by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius inaugurated the museum on Monday.

Known as the Antiquarium, the museum gives Pompeii a permanent exhibition space. Visitors can see sections of frescoed walls from the sprawling city's unearthed villas, examples of some of the graffiti unearthed by archaeologists as well as household objects ranging from silver spoons to a bronze food-warmer, items of the everyday life that was snuffed out by the volcanic explosion.

First opened in about 1873,

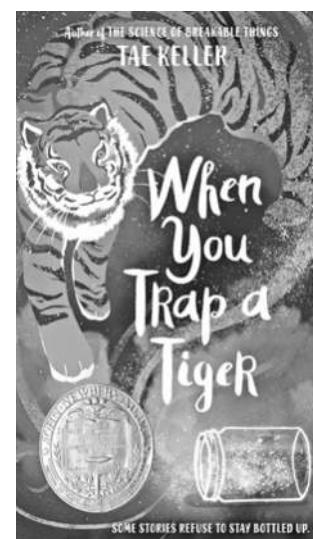


A man walks past the statue of Ephebos inside the museum Antiquarium in Pompeii, southern Italy, Monday, Jan. 25, 2021.

the Antiquarium was damaged by bombing during World War II and again in 1980, when a deadly earthquake rocked the Naples area. Since the quake, the museum had been closed, although it was reopened in 2016 as a space for temporary exhibitions.

The Antiquarium's displays also document Pompeii's history as a settlement several centuries before it became a flourishing Roman city.

Due to Italy's COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions, currently only visitors from Italy's Campania region, which



This cover image released by Random House Books for Young Readers shows "When You Trap a Tiger," winner of the John Newbery Medal for the outstanding children's book overall of 2020.

ages by Frank Morrison.

The awards were announced Monday by the American Library Association.

"We Are Water Protectors," written by Carole Lindstrom, was conceived in response to the planned construction of the Dakota pipeline through Standing Rock Sioux territory. Goade, a member of the Tlingit and Haida Indian tribes in Southeast Alaska, was sent a copy of the manuscript through her agent in 2018 and responded immediately to its political message and message of water as a universal force.

Award, won her third Coretta Scott King Award for best work by a Black author for "Before the Ever After." And a tribute to Aretha Franklin, "R-E-S-P-E-C-T," received the King award for best illustration. The book was written by Carole Boston Weatherford, with im-

'Soul,' 'Ma Rainey's' among AFI's top 10 films of the year

The American Film Institute on Monday announced its top 10 films of the year, including Pixar's jazz themed "Soul" and two of Chadwick Boseman's final films: the August Wilson adaptation "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" and Spike Lee's Vietnam drama "Da 5 Bloods," both of which are Netflix films.

Netflix featured heavily in the AFI's list, which took up four positions on the list including David Fincher's "Citizen Kane" origin story "Mank" and Aaron Sorkin's "The Trial of the Chicago 7."

Amazon, too, got two spots with the hearing loss drama "Sound of Metal," with Riz Ahmed and Regina King's "One Night in Miami..."

Chloé Zhao's awards and festival favorite "Nomadland" with Frances McDormand was also named an honoree in

advance of its theatrical rollout in the coming weeks, as was "Minari," with Steven Yeun, which opens Feb. 12. AFI also selected Warner Bros.' Black Panther Party film "Judas and the Black Messiah" which will have its premiere at the Sundance Film Festival on Feb. 1.

The AFI also named its top 10 television shows, including Netflix's "The Queen's Gambit," the Disney+ phenomenon "The Mandalorian" and Apple TV+'s "Ted Lasso."

The selection jury included filmmakers Rian Johnson and Lulu Wang. The group also included a special citation for "Hamilton."

In lieu of the annual luncheon celebrating the honorees, AFI will hold a virtual benediction on Feb. 26 streaming on YouTube and the AFI website.

Drunken flirting puts close friend at greater distance

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been close friends with a woman named "Louise" for five years. Recently, we were all hanging out, and Louise got very drunk and tried to massage lotion into my husband's hands. She also hugged him and wouldn't let go, although he put his hands at his side and his whole body stiffened.

My husband has expressed to me that these situations made him very uncomfortable, and they do the same to me. We talked about letting Louise know, but he felt it would only make her feel awkward around us.

It has been a month, and I can't seem to let it go. I don't want to text her, and I'm finding excuses to avoid her. Should I continue trying to let this go or is a conversation in order?

TAKEN ABACK IN NEW YORK

DEAR TAKEN ABACK: If you "let it go," it will probably happen again and the friendship will be over. A conversation with Louise is overdue. She needs to know she must be more careful about her drinking, because the last time she became very drunk, she embarrassed not only your husband, but also you.

DEAR ABBY: I am childless, but I have a niece I've given lots of money to over the years. She's in her mid-40s with a young child and a husband who has a low-paying job.

Although she has several degrees, she has worked mostly as a waitress. They live in a tiny apartment and during these rough

times, I have been paying their rent. She rarely acknowledges it. I have never discussed it with her parents, and I have no idea how much they have (or have not) helped her.

I'm conflicted about helping her/them because this is such a tough time. I can't see how they're going to make their lives better without help. I'm wondering if you have some advice on how I can best assist them or if I should stop.

LOSING FAITH IN COLORADO

DEAR LOSING FAITH: You haven't spoken to your niece's parents about what you have been doing. Why not? If you do, it may give you a clearer picture of her situation. I wish you had been more forthcoming about why she isn't using any of the college degrees she has earned. If her parents are helping her, you may need to be doing less.

Your niece should research to find out whether government assistance is available. If it isn't, and you can afford it, consider continuing the financial assistance until the COVID situation is under control. Then your niece and her husband can get back on their feet, and you can stop being treated like an ATM.

DEAR ABBY: I have a male best friend I adore. When I tell other men about my bestie, they feel intimidated because he has a key to my apartment. We are not dating; we just have sex sometimes, and everyone that I try to be with knows about

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



him. Must I give up on my bestie to be with the man I love even though Bestie and I promised each other that we will never break our bond for anyone?

COMPLICATED IN TENNESSEE

DEAR COMPLICATED: If you hadn't been having sex sometimes with your bestie, the "man you love" might have been able to accept him. The answer to your question is yes, you WILL have to make a choice. Now, the question I have for you is, which man do you think is the keeper?

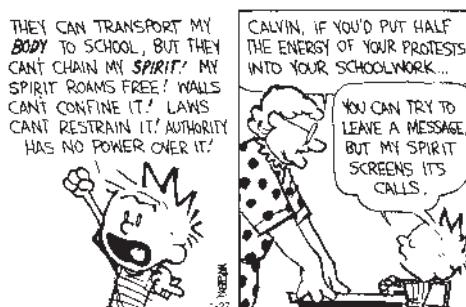
What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



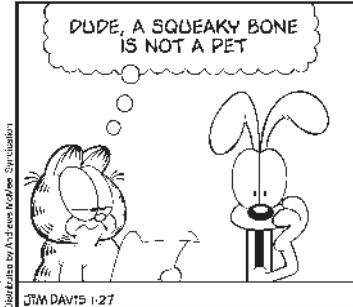
By Bill Waterson



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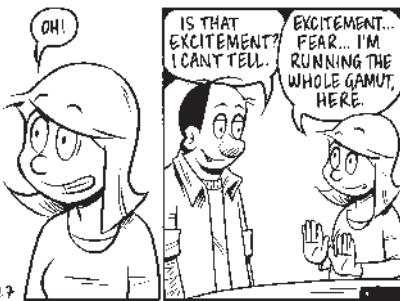
By Jim Davis



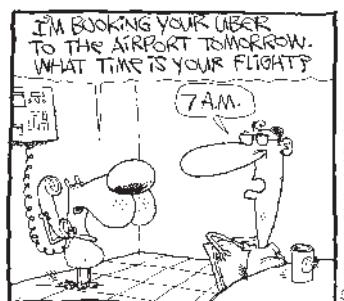
Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	26	Slender	DOWN	14	Snatched
1 Hot tub	27	Felon's	1	Boutique	15
4 Can.		flight	2	Cover of	Seminary
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7 List-	30	Airport	4	Magic	19 Letter
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8 "The	33	Aldous	7	Trumpet	21
Hobbit"		Huxley	8	noise	22
baddie	36	novel	9	Filmed	Filmed
10 — Holmes			10	Figure out	5
(Sherlock's	37	Juan's	11	Medicinal	23
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younger	38	Paris	13	Eve's	Word
sister)		school	14	grandson	in a
11 Flowering	39	Cry of	15	deck	carrier's
13 Globe-		pain	16	Seer's	name
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lism			30		32 TV
25 "Roots"	31		31		33 Spots
author			32		34 Bad
Haley	32		33		habit
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			35		pieces

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-27

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Patton Oswalt, 52; Alan Cumming, 56; Bridget Fonda, 57; Cris Collinsworth, 62.

Happy Birthday: Preparation will be essential this year. Go over every detail, and think matters through to the end before you jump into action. Situations will transform quickly, making it vital to keep everything updated and in its place. Well-thought-out plans and knowing what you want will help you reach the goals and receive the rewards you desire. Your numbers are 8, 11, 23, 25, 32, 39, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Refuse to let your emotions take over. Ease into situations that are likely to turn vicious. You'll excel if you keep your thoughts to yourself and put your energy into getting things done. Make up your mind, and take care of business. ☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take a creative approach to whatever you do at work or home. The outcome, if handled uniquely, will capture interest and bring issues of concern to the forefront. Full disclosure will help you settle matters once and for all. ☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take care of matters concerning health, finances and government institutions. The less you leave unfinished, the easier it will be to move on to something new and exciting. Don't feel you have to pay for someone's mistake. ☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Share your thoughts and feelings, and you'll find out exactly where you stand. A partnership will encourage you to use your imagination more

when looking for solutions. Distance yourself from what's unfolding, and see what transpires. Romance is on the rise. ☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Walk away from explosive situations. Arguing will not benefit you; it will add to your uncertainty. Control your emotions when dealing with meaningful relationships. It's better to play it safe than to end up sorry. Focus on self-improvement, not changing others. ☀

ARIES (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Spend time with the people who bring out the best in you, and you will bring about a positive change that will benefit everyone. A chance to share your feelings with someone you love will turn out to be rewarding. ☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Proceed with caution. Situations will get blown out of proportion if you are too elaborate regarding the changes you want to make and their costs. Look for cheaper alternatives before you share your plans. Intelligence and charm will pay off. ☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make positive changes at home or to the way you live. Following your heart or living your dream is possible if you put in the time and effort to make it happen. Stop procrastinating; take care of unfinished business. ☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stop overspending unnecessarily. Put a budget in place based on your priorities. Refuse to give in to someone eager to use your hard-earned cash for their comfort. You can't buy love. Offer kindness and support, not lavish gifts. ☀

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Draw on your charm, finesse and mindfulness, and you will ward off a problem with someone looking for a fight. Take the initiative to go above and beyond the call of duty to keep the peace. Romance is encouraged. ☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be ready for whatever comes your way. Think fast, but don't act prematurely. Timing is everything, and it's essential to know when to make your move and when to sit tight. Smart moves require intelligence and precision. ☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Reach out, find out how you can be of help and schmooze with people in a position to help you in return. Be innovative and demonstrative, and you will gain recognition for what you are trying to achieve. Romance is encouraged. ☀

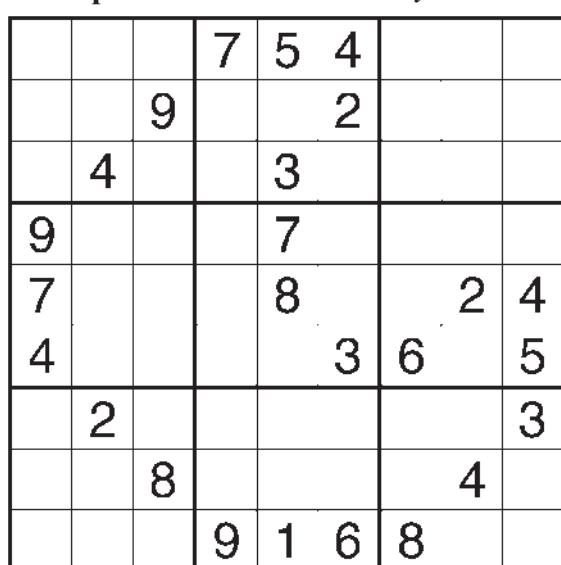
Birthday Baby: You are passionate, endearing and complex. You are original and inspiring.

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SUDOKU

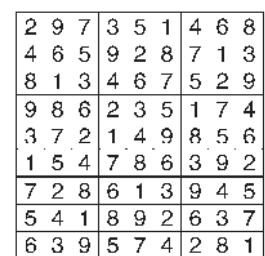
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GREEK ISLANDS

Solution: 7 letters

S O R Y K S A M O T H R A C E
O L E M N O S A I N I R E S C
S A E G E A N O R O E V I A S
A N B N O E H T N A P F S S O
K I M O L O S O C I N U O I M
I M Y S A A H A S O T R M I A
Z A K Y N T H O S A E S T S L
S L N D O T L A O L E S A I A
A A A E I E N U N D I K P N K
I S I T D T F S O M A S O A A
L O N E O R D H K S I S R G I
K R O R O E R A Y S O K O E R
A D I C S O L I M R S L S M A
R N A X O S I X A P S O I H C
I A R D Y H S P E T S E S T I

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Aegean, Andros, Boat, Chios, Corfu, Crete, Damp, Delos, Erinia, Evia, Hydra, Icaria, Ionian, Iraklia, Ithaca, Kalamos, Kasos, Kea, Kimolos, Kos, Lemnos, Leros, Lipsi, Meganisi, Milos, Mist, Mykonos, Naxos, Othonoi, Pantheon, Paros, Patmos, Paxi, Poros, Rhodes, Salamina, Samos, Samothrace, Sand, Santorini, Sifnos, Skyrus, Spetses, Symi, Tilos, Tinos, Zakynthos
Yesterday's Answer: Reviews

Treasures 24 through 42 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Difficulty Level ★★★

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LeBron, Lakers beat Cavs to stay perfect on road



C L E V E L A N D
(AP)—Back home, LeBron James kept the Lakers perfect on the road.

James went on a scoring tear in the fourth quarter, getting 21 of his 46 points with a variety of dazzling shots and plays only he seems to make, leading Los Angeles to a 115-108 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Monday night.

James' first game in Ohio in more than two years couldn't have gone much better.

"Home cooking," said James, who got a meal made by his mom, Gloria. "It felt good to be back in my haven."

Anthony Davis added 17 points as the defending NBA champions improved to 10-0 away from home. The win for Los Angeles came on the eve of the one-year anniversary of Lakers legend Kobe Bryant's tragic death in a helicopter crash.

LOS ANGELES—The Christmas card arrived by mail at Jerry West's house — it was from Kobe Bryant's wife, Vanessa, and his family.

Both West and his wife, Karen, quickly overcame their emotions.

"As soon as I saw it, I said, 'Oh, that's it!'" West said. "And my wife immediately jumped out of the room and cried like crazy."

This card brings a flood of sad memories from the tragic day when one of the most beloved Lakers, his daughter, Janna, and seven others died in a helicopter crash on January 26, 2020. I did.

A year later, West still can't get rid of Bryant's death from his heart.

"When I saw the Christmas card, the first thing I said was, 'When will the anniversary come?'" West said. "But because of its impact on the city, and really his immense popularity, I think it robs you of something. Some people can do whatever they want and can't contribute to society. You will think of the great success he had in his life, and he was willing to give back, but he continues to grow into another iconic figure in another different field. Athletes rarely do it. LeBron James did it for sure. And I admire those players doing it, I really admire them."

A photo of the Bryant family in the West Family Room always reminds us of how intimate the two families have been since Jerry brought Kobe to the Lakers over 20 years ago.

On January 6th, West couldn't miss the photo so he saw it again as usual. But for some reason, West became sentimental that day.

"We have this picture of him and his family, Vanessa, and just before I left, I saw it and said, 'Oh, my god.' It's right next to my family room," West said. "My wife puts it right there so you can see it. I saw it again. I'm sitting to see something in the news or watch an NBA game. Is almost every day. Every time I sit down, the picture is in front of me. Don't miss it. I see the picture every day. And Karen, which of our family is him. The one who put it there as a reminder of what he just took care of. It's just a tragedy. It's a tragedy. There's no explanation."

West believes the situation would have been different if the helicopter pilot had taken a different route on a foggy day. He believes that everyone is still alive and that Bryant will continue to provide wisdom to the world in these turbulent times.

"If they were taking other routes, he would

James' outburst in the fourth was reminiscent of something Bryant might do as well, and it was fueled by him wanting to shut up a member of Cleveland's front office group sitting in the socially-distanced front row across from the Cavs' bench.

When James was short with a 3-pointer at the end of the third quarter, the unidentified Cavs executive celebrated.

"I felt he was a little too excited about seeing me miss," James said playfully. "I knew I had another quarter and the fourth quarter is my favorite. It's a good thing for him I only come here once."

Over the final 12 minutes, James made 9 of 10 shots, posing to hold his form after draining a 34-foot 3-pointer just before the 24-second clock expired to put the Lakers ahead 103-98.

James followed that with a step-back 3 and then drained a fadeaway turn-around jumper

in the corner before shaking his head at Cleveland's bench.

Nets 88, Heat 85

In New York, James Harden and Kevin Durant each scored 20 points despite three relatively quiet quarters, and the Brooklyn Nets broke away with a big run in the fourth to beat the Miami Heat.

Kyrie Irving added 16 points for the Nets, who completed a sweep of the Heat in two games that couldn't have been more different. Brooklyn won 128-124 on Saturday, then took the rematch despite barely topping its lowest-scoring game of the season.

Harden had only 10 points and five shots through three, then scored 10 more in the 18-2 spurt that turned a tie game into a 96-80 lead.

Pistons 119, 76ers 104

In Detroit, Delon Wright scored a career-high 28 points

and Wayne Ellington had another impressive shooting night for the Pistons, leading the Pistons past Eastern Conference-leading Philadelphia.

Jerami Grant scored 25 points for the Pistons (4-13), who still have the NBA's worst record but took advantage of Joel Embiid's absence. The Philadelphia star was out with back tightness.

Pacers 129, Raptors 114

In Indianapolis, Malcolm Brogdon scored a career-high 36 points and Myles Turner scored 11 of his 21 in the final 8 1/2 minutes to help Indiana pull away from Toronto.

Brogdon also had nine assists and seven rebounds. Jeremy Lamb matched his season high with 22 points as Indiana earned a split in the two-game set against the Raptors. The Pacers won this one despite losing All-Star forward Damion Sabonis to a bruised

left knee in the first half.

Magic 117, Hornets 108

In Orlando, Nikola Vucevic scored 28 points and rookie point guard Cole Anthony added a career-high 21 points as the Magic topped Charlotte.

Orlando snapped a two-game losing streak and bounced back from squandering a double-digit lead in the fourth quarter a night earlier in a loss to the Hornets.

Orlando made a season-best 19 3-pointers, including seven in the third quarter.

Nuggets 117, Mavericks 113

In Dallas, Michael Porter Jr. tied his season high with 30 points and Denver overcame Jamal Murray's ejection for a shot to the groin of Tim Hardaway Jr. to beat the Mavericks.

Porter was 6 of 10 from 3-point range, including a go-ahead shot to start a decisive

7-0 run late in the fourth quarter after the Mavericks had rallied immediately following the incident involving Murray and Hardaway.

Luka Doncic had 35 points, 11 rebounds and a season-high 16 assists for his league-leading sixth triple-double.

Celtics 119, Bulls 103

In Chicago, Jaylen Brown scored 26 points, Jayson Tatum added 24 after missing five games because of COVID-19 protocols and Boston beat the Bulls.

Tatum made three 3-pointers and had five assists over 31 minutes in his first appearance since Jan. 8.

Daniel Theis scored 19 points and Marcus Smart added 13 while tying a career high with 11 assists as the Celtics won their second straight.

Zach LaVine led Chicago with 30 points and shot 6 of 10 on 3s.

still be around and we would be able to see more of him and his achievements and see his family grow," West said. "Such a prominent person wouldn't see him grow so much because his family would be more hidden. And it's fun to see someone like him. His with Gigi, the relationship was ridiculous and I could see love in his eyes as she approached him."

"Anniversaries stand out, so I don't know what to do on that day. I'll probably relive that Sunday, I think it happened. My God, it's just scary. It's scary. That I can't even imagine what the last moment was. I hope somewhere along the way he had the final great idea," West added.

West praised the way Bryant evolved over 41 years.

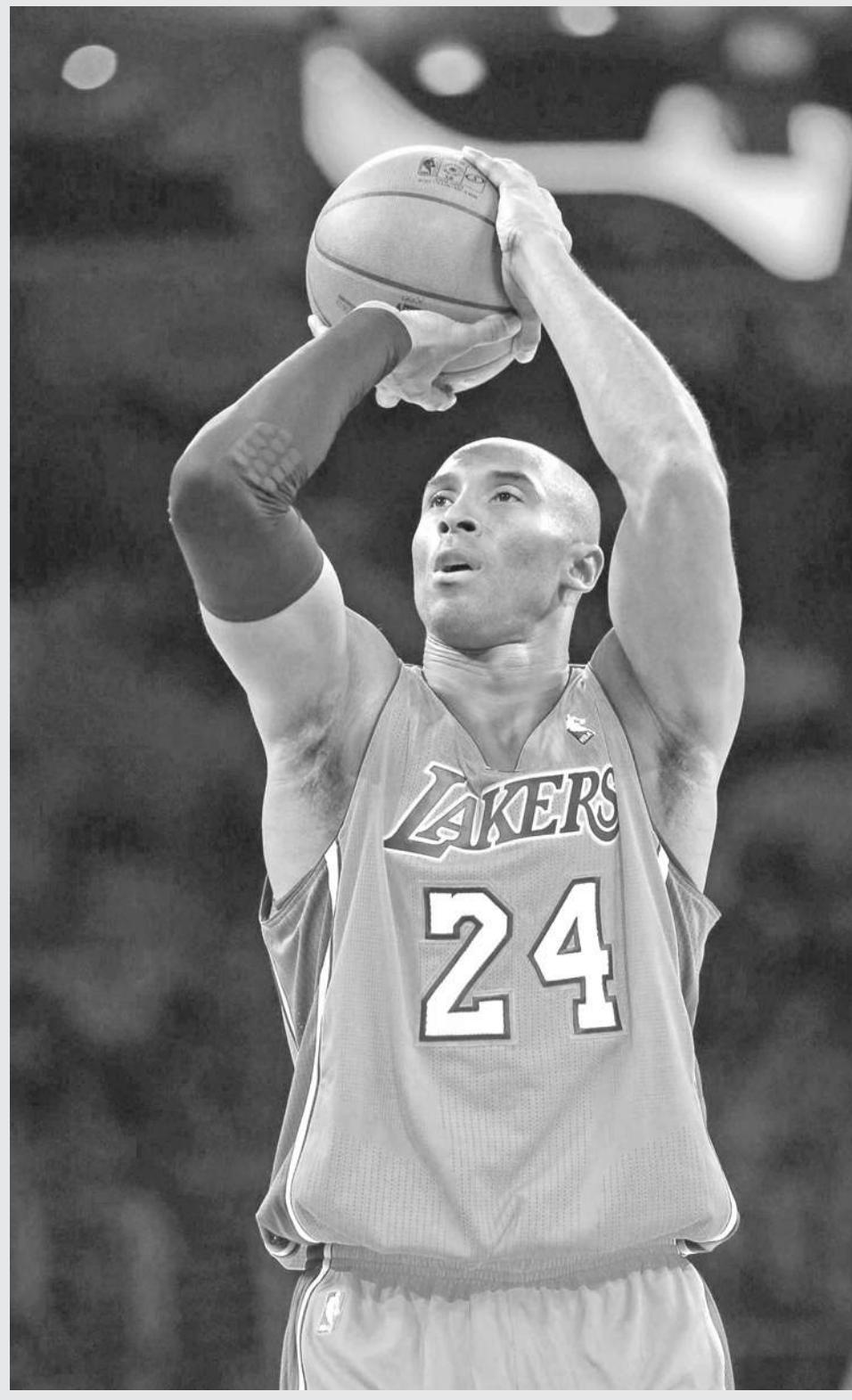
Bryant, then a 17-year-old child prodigy, was the Lakers general manager when he worked for the team before the 1996 NBA Draft. West was amazed at what he was doing against Bryant's skill set and former Lakers Michael Cooper, who is known for his defenses. To buy Bryant, West had to replace the center's Vlade Divac with Charlotte Hornets. Charlotte Hornets used the 13th pick to select a 6'6 guard from Lower Merion High School on the outskirts of Philadelphia. Brian spent all 20 years of his career at the Lakers.

West was surprised by the man Bryant retired. He is a global advocate of female sports, a beloved father and husband, a successful businessman, an Oscar winner of the animated short "Dear Basketball", and a bigger world than when he strapped basketball shoes. I saw it become an icon.

"You are always worried about people and what they are trying to do after their career," West said. "One of the things I was very happy about was that he was bigger than when he played. He was making a difference with young children. To young women of all races and colors. His message. He not only talked about it, but participated. It's when I know that someone is really committed to making a difference."

West said LA people should feel the "privilege" of being able to witness Bryant's talent for 20 years. He called it a "magical time" that he could never forget. (NBC)

Kobe: From wunderkind to icon



AP
In this Jan. 25, 2012 file photo, Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant takes a free throw shot during the second half of their NBA game against the Los Angeles Clippers in Los Angeles.

Rodgers' 'uncertain' future hangs over Green Bay

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Aaron Rodgers said he's not sure what his future holds in Green Bay. That was all it took to raise concerns about the Packers' ability to contend in 2021 and beyond.

Green Bay earned the top seed in the NFC behind an All-Pro season from Rodgers, who at age 37 put his team in ideal position to win its first Super Bowl since the 2010 season and the second of his brilliant career.

But the Packers' season ended with a dispiriting 31-26 loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Sunday's NFC championship game, and it didn't take long for questions about the team's long-term commitment to Rodgers to resurface.

After the Packers' fourth NFC title game loss in seven seasons, Rodgers said "a lot of guys' futures are uncertain, myself included." Rodgers has three years remaining on the four-year, \$118 million extension he signed in August 2018, but the two-time MVP has acknowledged on multiple occasions that his hopes of finishing his career in Green Bay were complicated by the Packers' decision to select Utah State quarterback Jordan Love in the 2020 draft.

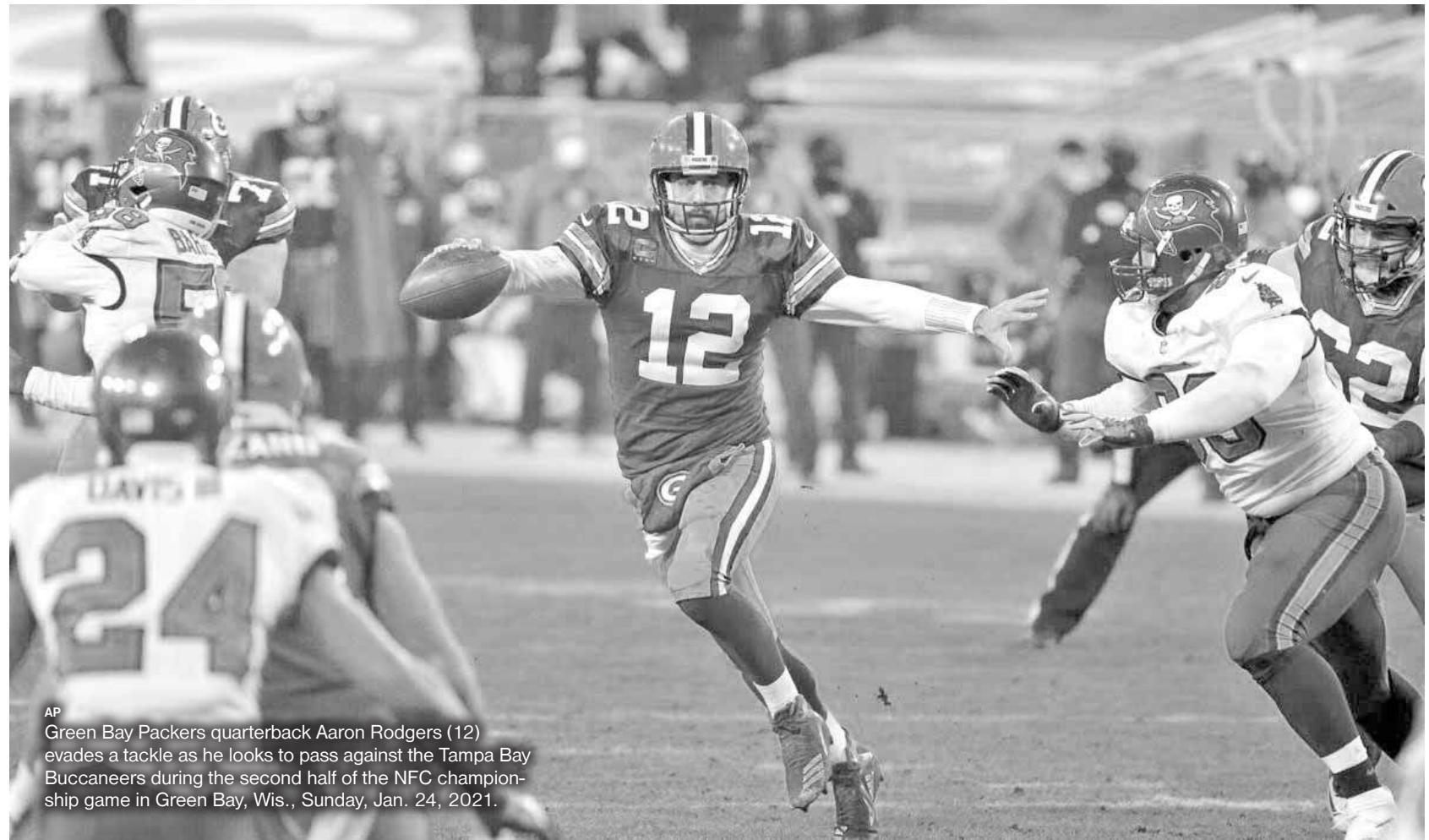
"There's a lot of unknowns going into this offseason now," Rodgers said. "I'm going to have to take some time away for sure and clear my head and just kind of see what's going on with everything. But it's pretty tough right now, especially thinking about the guys who may or may not be here next year. There's always change. That's the only constant in this business."

Assuming Rodgers returns, the team around him could look quite different. The Packers' list of potential free agents includes running backs Aaron Jones and Jamaal Williams, All-Pro center Corey Linsley and cornerback Kevin King.

Linsley was asked Monday about the progress of contract negotiations.

"My agent hasn't had any talks with the Packers," Linsley said. "That's obviously not to say something couldn't happen, but up to this point it's kind of been complimentary but nothing of substance."

The Packers boasted one of the league's top offensive lines this season thanks in part to All-Pro left tackle David Bakhtiari, who suffered a season-ending knee injury on Dec. 31. The Packers initially thrived without Bakhtiari, as they allowed just one sack in a win at Chicago and none in a playoff victory over the Los



AP

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) evades a tackle as he looks to pass against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers during the second half of the NFC championship game in Green Bay, Wis., Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021.

Angeles Rams.

Bakhtiari's absence was much more noticeable Sunday. The Bucs recorded five sacks, matching their output from their 38-10 regular-season victory over the Packers. Green Bay allowed a total of 16 sacks in its other 16 games.

If this was the last game in Packers uniforms for King and Jones, it will be a tough way for them to go out.

King played through a back injury that had prevented him from practicing Friday. He was beaten on two touchdown passes—including a 39-yarder to Scotty Miller with 1 second left until halftime—and committed a pass-interference penalty that helped the Bucs run out the clock.

Jones, who gained more than 3,000 yards from scrimmage and scored 30 touchdowns over the past two seasons, fumbled early in the second half to set up a Bucs touchdown. He suffered a chest injury on the play that knocked him out for the rest of the game.

Green Bay had the NFL's best red-zone offense this season, though the Packers referred to it as the "gold zone" due to offensive coordinator

Nathaniel Hackett's love of the movie "Austin Powers in Goldmember."

That magic was missing Sunday as the Packers twice settled for field goals after having first-and-goal. Rodgers was 2 of 9 with two touchdown passes in goal-to-go plays Sunday. Through the first 17 games of the season, he had been 41 of 59 with 31 touchdowns and no intercep-

tions in those situations.

More room for improvement

Travis Kelce has spent the better part of a month insisting the Kansas City Chiefs have yet to put everything together.

They still didn't in their AFC championship game win over Buffalo.

They came much closer than they have all season, though, and that could be a scary thought for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as they prepare to face Kansas City in the Super Bowl. The Chiefs fumbled a punt near their goal line to hand the Bills an early touchdown, dropped a couple of passes, committed a couple of costly penalties and still won in a 38-24 rout.

"I mean, we've got room to get better," said Chiefs coach Andy Reid, parroting the stance of his star tight end. "We had a couple of things that went a little haywire, but we stayed the course and did some good things. We did more good things than bad things. This job is a little like being a farmer; the work is never done."

Well, it will be in two more weeks.

The Chiefs plan to spend the time between the AFC title game and the Super Bowl in Tampa, Florida, practicing at their facility near Arrowhead Stadium. They are tentatively planning to depart the day before the game because of the COVID-19 protocols, a big change from a normal year, when they would arrive at the site a week in advance.

It also means a much quieter

two weeks to iron out those remaining issues, far away from the harsh glare and the intense spotlight that comes with preparing amid the typical Super Bowl circus.

The Chiefs began film study of the Buccaneers early Monday, a day that is typically reserved for film study and rehab work with trainers. The reason is simple: Reid wanted to cram as much in as possible before things get busier later in the week.

Pats fans still rooting for Brady

As soon as the Tampa Bay Buccaneers won the NFC title game, Brian Pope went shopping for a Tom Brady jersey to wear when he watches them play in the Super Bowl.

One problem: Pope lives in Connecticut. And he isn't really even a Buccaneers fan—or at least he wasn't, until Brady left the New England Patriots to make another championship run with Tampa Bay.

"I'll be watching, and I'll be rooting for Brady," Pope said as he eyed a rack of the quarterback's Patriots and Michigan Wolverines jerseys in the Gillette Stadium pro shop on Monday afternoon.

"I wish he hadn't left, but so be it," Pope said. "I'm still a Patriots fan, but I'm not upset that he's playing in the Super Bowl, by any stretch."

Brady won an NFL record six Super Bowls with the Patriots, and he also played in three others during a 20-year career in New England that ended when he signed with the Buccaneers as a free agent in March.

MLS to open season on April 3; title game set for Dec. 11

MIAMI (AP)—Major League Soccer will open next season on April 3, a month later than normal, and conclude with the MLS Cup title game on Dec. 11.

Teams will be allowed to start preseason camps on Feb. 22.

But the announcement Monday came amid ongoing uncertainty about the coronavirus pandemic and whether fans will be able to attend games, especially at the start of the season.

The league has said it incurred an estimated \$1 billion in losses last year, due in part to lost revenue as a result of the virus.

As a result, the league has invoked the agreement's "force majeure" clause to reopen negotiations with players on a collective bargaining agreement, setting a Jan. 29 deadline.

The league and the players' union had two difficult negotiations a year ago—one in February before the start of the season, and a second in June when players took a pay cut in order to resume the 2020 season.

Earlier this month, MLS proposed paying the players their full salaries this season in exchange for a two-year extension of the current CBA—effectively freezing wages for two additional years. The Major League Soccer Players Union coun-

tered that it would not be rushed into negotiations.

The league said the two sides met Monday. MLS said it remains committed to reaching an agreement before the deadline.

"This is not a unique situation, as MLS and the players have negotiated more complicated issues in prior CBAs and managed to meet the deadline," the league said in a statement.



The MLSPA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

There's also uncertainty about the league's three Canadian teams. Because of travel restrictions, the Canadian teams had to relocate to the United States to finish last season. Toronto played home games in Connecticut, Montreal was moved to Red Bull Stadium in New Jersey, and Vancouver shared Providence Park with the Portland Timbers.

Major League Soccer will grow to 27 teams this season with the addition of expansion Austin. There will be 13 teams in the Western Conference and 14 in the East.

The regular season will conclude Nov. 7 and the playoffs will open Nov. 19. The date of the league's All-Star game has not been set. The league will announce a broadcast schedule in coming weeks.

Teams will remain under strict COVID-19 protocols.

Gazipur rules US Bangla Premier League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Gazipur capped its perfect run in the U.S. Bangla Premier League with a 2-1 finals victory over Narayanganj last Sunday at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School.

Saiful Islam and Palma Joy recorded the goals for Gazipur in the one-game championship duel.

Islam drew first blood for the unbeaten squad, making the goal in the seventh minute off a rebound. Islam's teammate took a shot from right center and Narayanganj goalie Rasal dove, partially deflecting the ball for the save. However, with Rasal had yet to establish back his defense at the post, Islam got the possession and unloaded a follow-up with the former this time

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six confirmed events. The Pacific Games Council has provided an initial \$20,000 in seed money, and fundraising for cash and in-kind support will also be conducted.

Also represented on the organizing committee are the CNMI Office of the Governor, Saipan Mayor's Office, Dept. of Public Works, Dept. of Public Safety, Public School System, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Dept. of Community and Cultural Affairs, Dept. of Finance, Dept. of Fire & Emergency Medical Services, Commonwealth Health Care Corp. and Governor's CO-VID-19 Task Force, Marianas Visitors Authority, and representatives for sports and corporate sponsorship.

For more information, contact the 2022 Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee at marianassports@gmail.com. (PR)

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vailed anew, 21-9.

From Court 3, SIS 1 moved to Court 1 to wrap up its opening weekend assignment and picked up where it left off, outclassing MCS 1, 21-14.

With SIS 1 and MHS 1 earning unbeaten records last Saturday, they share the early lead in the 10-team field, ahead of GCA 1 (3-2), MHS 2 (3-2), SIS 2 (3-2), GCA 2 (3-3), MCS 2 (1-3), MHS 3 (1-3), MCS 1 (1-3), and MHS 4 (0-4).

GCA 1 notched a pair of wins on Court 1, kicking off its campaign in the league with a 21-10 win over MCS 2 and then defeating MCS 1, 21-16. After losing to SIS 1 on Court 3, GCA 1



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saiful Islam takes a shot for Gazipur's first goal in the championship game.

having butterfingers and instead of pushing the ball out, he dropped the leather that eventually rolled in, giving Gazipur a 1-0 advantage.

Gazipur kept the shaky lead at the break, while Narayan-

ganj equalized in the 35th minute off Mamun's goal.

Then just when things seemed to be working well for Narayanganj in its bid to upset the undefeated Gazipur, Rasal committed another



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Gazipur player, center, kicks the ball, while a Narayanganj attempts to deflect it during the first half of their title match in the US Bangla Premier League last Sunday at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School.

er boo, handing the eventual champion an own goal that was credited to Joy.

The Amzad Khan-captained Gazipur went on to keep the precarious lead as time expired, allowing the team to rule the competition with a

perfect mark.

Gazipur won five matches in the elimination round, downing Narayanganj, Kushtia, Shariatpur, Comilla, and Munshiganj.

Then in the semis, Gazipur edged Shariatpur, 1-0, to set up a finals duel against Narayan-

ganj, which reached the championship game following a 2-0 triumph over Kushtia.

"Our team did really well in this tournament," said Khan, who thanked the Bangladeshi community on Saipan for organizing the competition.

Yankees send Ottavino to Red Sox in rare trade

NEW YORK (AP) — Wanting to slash salary to avoid paying luxury tax, the New York Yankees opted to make a rare trade with the Boston Red Sox.

Boston acquired struggling reliever Adam Ottavino along with minor league right-hander Frank German from the Yankees on Monday for a player to be named or cash.

As part of the trade, the Yankees agreed to send Boston \$850,000 on July 1 to cover part of the \$8 million owed to Ottavino, a 35-year-old right-hander entering the final season of a \$27 million, three-year contract. New York remains responsible for

Ottavino's \$3 million signing bonus, due next Jan. 15.

"I know it's the Yankees and I understand what that means and it's the most storied rivalry in sports," Red Sox chief baseball officer Chaim Bloom said. "But if we're not willing to do something that helps us because it also helps them, or worse, if we're worried that it might not go as we expect and it blows up in our faces and we looked at it, well, then, we're just playing scared, and we're not going to play scared."

This was just the second trade since 1987 between the rivals. When New York obtained infielder Stephen

Drew from Boston on 2014 for infielder/outfielder Kelly Johnson, it was the first Yankees-Red Sox trade since Boston dealt first baseman/catcher Mike Stanley to New York for pitcher Tony Armas Jr. and a player to be named, who became pitcher Jim Mecir.

"I was a little surprised today when I got the news but all things considered, Boston's always a place I want to play," Ottavino said, speaking in front of a painting of jazz trumpeter Miles Davis, made by his mother-in-law. "I feel like I'm going to end up a trivia question now."

A Brooklyn native who

attended college in Boston at Northeastern, Ottavino signed with the Yankees before the 2019 season and took No. 0, the Yankees' last available single digit. He had a successful first season

that included a 6-5 record and 1.90 ERA as he became a key setup man for closer Aroldis Chapman along with Zack Britton, Chad Green and Tommy Kahnle.

But he slumped to a 5.89 ERA during pandemic-shortened 2020, the highest of his nine full big league seasons, and manager Aaron Boone did not use him with a lead in the late innings of close

games in the final week of the season or during the playoffs. Ottavino's low point was when he allowed six runs against Toronto on Sept. 7 without getting any outs.

"2020 was a tough year," he said. "Didn't throw the way I wanted to overall and then had probably the worst game of my career right there in the middle that made it that much harder to deal with and then didn't really get much of a chance in the playoffs. So it was tough. . . ."

He walked nine in 18 1/3 innings last year and 40 in 66 1/3 innings in 2019. Still, he struck out 25 last season, 88 in 2019 and 112 over 77 2/3 innings in 2018.

the same court—against MHS 3, 21-19 and over GCA 2, 21-3.

Meanwhile, the last set of preliminary games in the girls high school division won't be played until Feb. 6, as this weekend's matches will feature the boys teams. Preliminary games are scheduled to determine the participating squads' rankings in the playoff round, which is set for Feb. 19 and 20 for the girls and Feb. 26 and 27 for the boys.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mt. Carmel School 1's Fiona Bucalig sets up her teammate during their game against Grace Christian Academy 1 in the 2020-2021 Public School System Interscholastic 4v4 Beach Volleyball League last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts.



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Saipan Tribune Sports

Rodgers'
'uncertain'
future hangs
over Green Bay

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee has unveiled the Pacific Mini Games 2022 logo, as preparations for the regional event continue.

Designed by Kadi Marshal Yamada Camacho, the logo incorporates a latte stone monolith and "mwaar" (floral head lei) representing the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people of the Northern Marianas. Eleven flowers symbolize the 11th edition of the Pacific Mini Games, and three multi-colored individuals form a smiling face and represent the diversity and unity of the event. One individual reaching upward "for excellence" is outlined with an outrigger canoe shape, a call to voyag-

Pacific Mini Games 2022 logo unveiled

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Pacific Mini Games 2022 logo is designed by Kadi Marshal Yamada Camacho.



ing and the Pacific maritime heritage. Fourteen white spaces symbolize the 14 islands of the Northern Marianas, while a purple wave sits at the base of the logo.

"If the ocean and waves connect the various Pacific islands, this 'wave element' supports and connects all island nations participating in this sports event," Camacho said.

The Pacific Mini Games 2022 will be held on Saipan from July 17 to 25 with 24 countries and territories throughout the Pacific invited to participate.

The Pacific Mini Games 2022 is a multi-sport event

governed by the Pacific Games Council and a scaled-down version of the Pacific Games, held every alternating four years.

At this time, an estimated 400-600 athletes are anticipated to participate in six events at the Mini Games: athletics, badminton, baseball, golf, beach volleyball, and triathlon.

"The Northern Marianas looks forward to welcoming all athletes in 2022 for the first Mini Games ever hosted by our islands," said Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter.

"For this to come to fruition will be a testament to the strength of our Pacific-wide culture in cooperating, persevering, and pulling each other up during difficult times like these. I'm pleased to report that this kind of community cooperation is what allows the Northern Marianas to assure the athletes that we have one of the lowest rates of coronavirus in the world today. We are working hard to ensure all facilities and events are top-level, and I believe it's going to be a very successful Mini Games."

The Mini Games are expected to cost an estimated \$3.2 million to host with the See PACIFIC on Page 19

Strong start for MHS 1, SIS 1



A Saipan International School 1 player bumps the ball during their game against Marianas High School 3 in the 2020-2021 Public School System Interscholastic 4v4 Beach Volleyball League last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School 1 and Saipan International School 1 were unbeaten in the opening weekend of the 2020-2021 Public School System Interscholastic 4v4 Beach Volleyball League, sweeping their first four matches in the girls high school division last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts.



MHS 1 debuted in the season with a 21-13 victory over Grace Christian Academy 2 on Court 2. The Dolphins played one more match on Court 2 and this time easily past MHS 4, 21-19. On Court 4, MHS 1 outclassed SIS 2, 21-18, and then topped MHS 2, 21-13, to close out the opening of the competition with a



A Marianas High School 1 player dinks the ball during their game against Grace Christian Academy 2.

perfect 4-0 record.

SIS 1 duplicated MHS 1's unblemished mark and one of those four wins was also against MHS 2 in the first game on Court 3, 21-12. The Geckos went on to play two more matches on the same court and won both to keep their un-

feated record. For their second game, SIS 1 was pitted against Mt. Carmel School 2 and took a 21-10 victory, while GCA 1 was up next for the Geckos and the Mili Saiki and Bruce Berline-coached squad pre-

See STRONG on Page 19